# Vol.4

ROKUDA NOBORU

F

Vol.4

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# Vol.4

FORBIDDEN FRUIT

# F

## Vol.4
FORBIDDEN FRUIT

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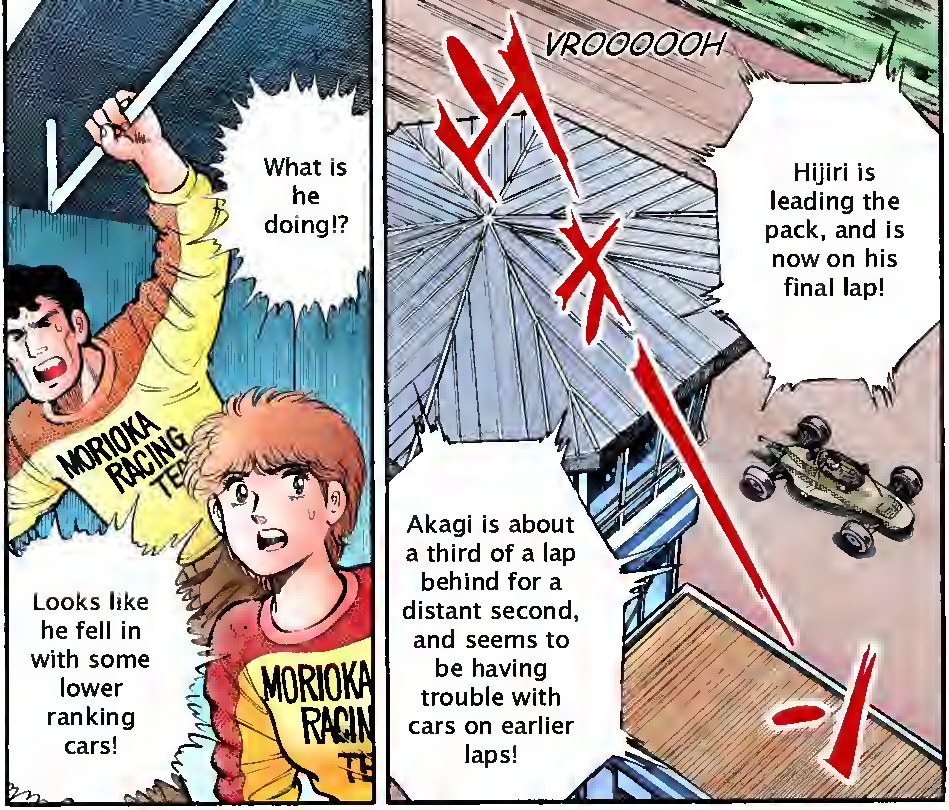
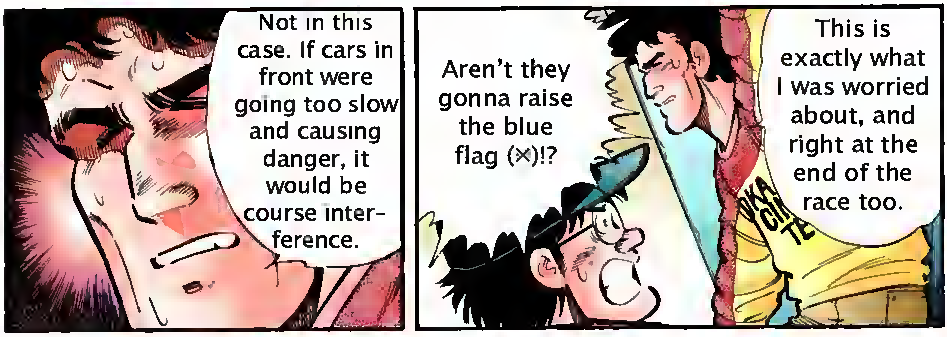
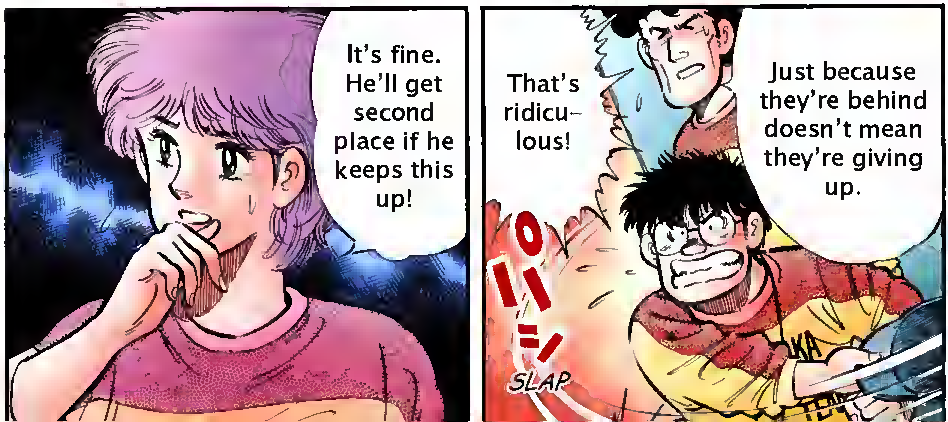
# Chapter 1: Whatever It Takes

... way.
... frea- kin' ...
No...
Outta the way you jerks!
101
ZOOOOOM
Yer all workin' for Hijiri I bet!


What is he doing!?
MORIOKA RACING TE
Looks like he fell in with some lower ranking cars!
VROOOOOH
Hijiri is leading the pack, and is now on his final lap!
Akagi is about a third of a lap behind for a distant second, and seems to be having trouble with cars on earlier laps!


Not in this case. If cars in front were going too slow and causing danger, it would be course interference.
Aren't they gonna raise the blue flag (※)!?
This is exactly what I was worried about, and right at the end of the race too.


It's fine. He'll get second place if he keeps this up!
That's ridiculous!
Just because they're behind doesn't mean they're giving up.
SLAP

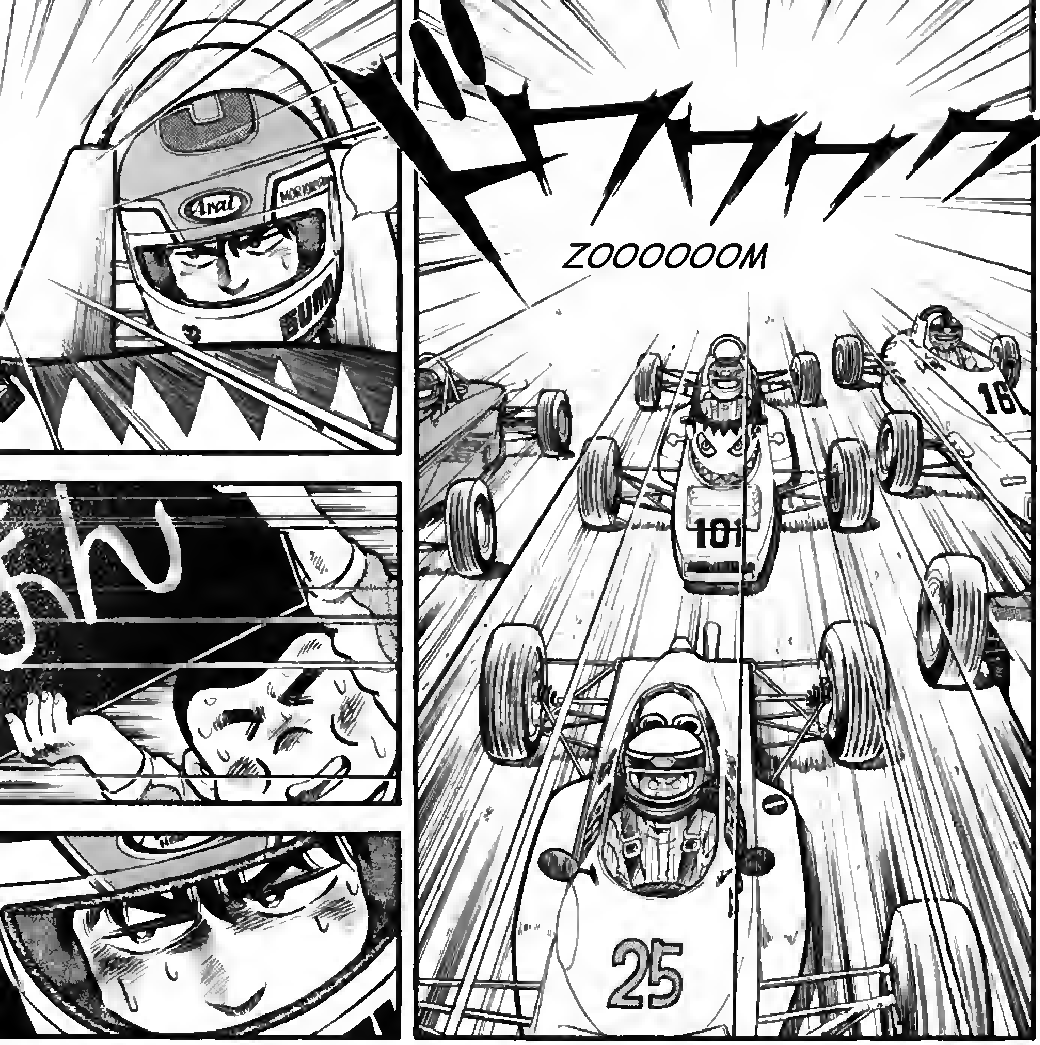
※ Blue flag = Used to warn slower drivers that a car is approaching them at high speed

His mind is set on first place.
But this is Gunma we're talkin' about.
He can cross the finish line at second!
GUNMA AKAGI
GUNMA AKAGI

If that's true, he's probably gonna mess this up in his own special way.
SCREH
SCREH
I bet those other cars got it in for Gunma.
Besides, before the race he went outta his way to make the other racers hate his guts.

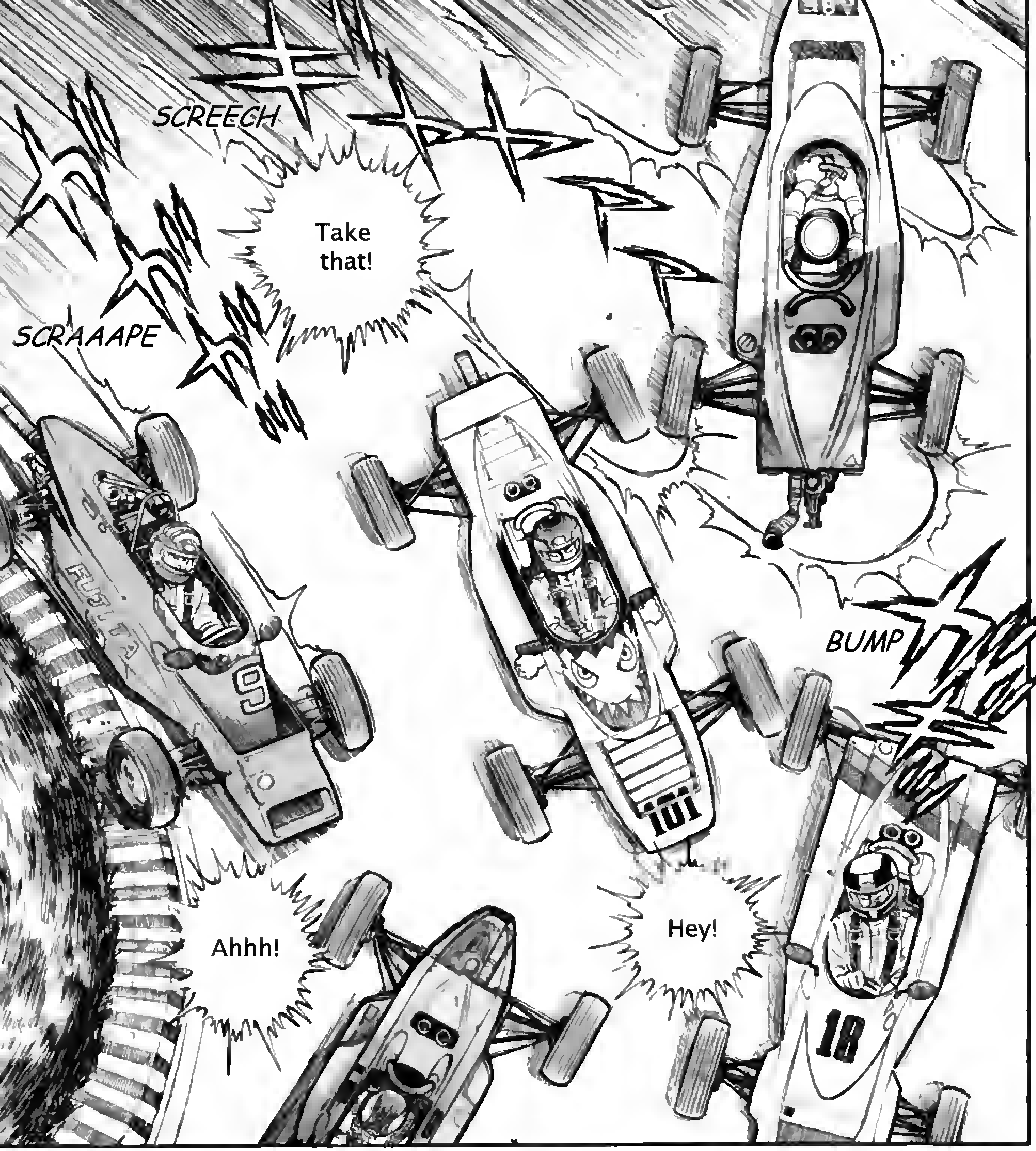
Here it goes.
SCREH
I hope he can under-stand this.

がまん
PATIENCE
Gunma!


ドドドドドド
ZOOOOOOM
101
25
16

You want me to forget about first place and keep drivin' like this for second.
I know what yer tryin' to say Tamotsu.
Just hangin' steady on this last lap, and finishin' a respectable second place is the safest way to go.
GUNM

PUSH
Arai
"Second place" is a nice way of sayin' the first loser!
It might be the safest way, Tamotsu, but you know how I think.
SCRAAAPE
Hold on tight losers.
I'm about to send you all to hell!
BAK
Geez!
101
SCRAAAPE

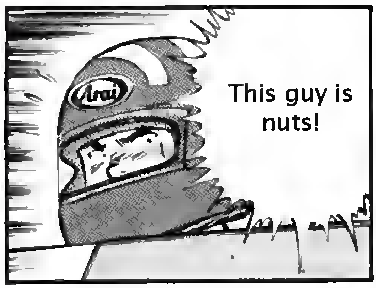

SCREECH
Take that!
SCRAAAPE
BUMP
Ahhh!
Hey!
101
18

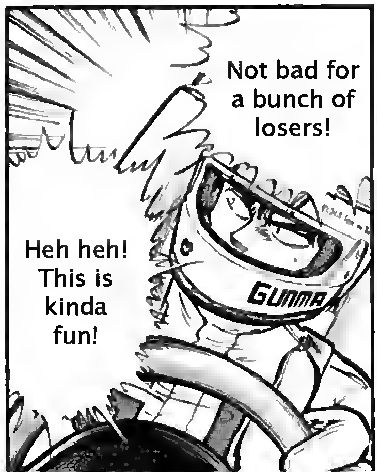
Bring it!
Geez!
And this!
And that!
GUP!

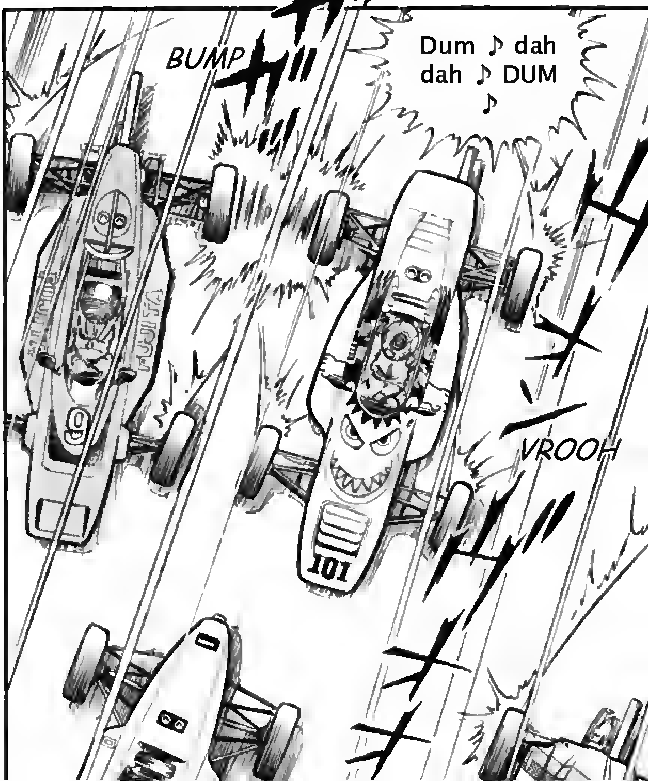
Looks like Akagi's got his hands full.
Heh heh heh ...
SHOEI
HIZIRI
Hijiri is out of the first hairpin and on his way to the Dunlop Bridge!
Can he keep this up, and be the first to cross the finish line!?
BUMP
ZOOOOM
!!
BAK
1
HIZIRI

GSSHHH
IRRRRRRRRK
Wh...
SHOEI
HIZIRI
Oh hell no!
BAK
A part from one of the slower cars fell onto the track, smacking right into Hijiri's car!
Oh my! Something awful has happened! Hijiri spun off the course, right after passing under the Dunlop Bridge!

SHOEI
HIZIRI
Grr!
VATAROOM
Hijiri gets right back on the course!
I don't believe this. My A-arm (*) is shot!
What an accident folks, right at the end of the race!
VROOM



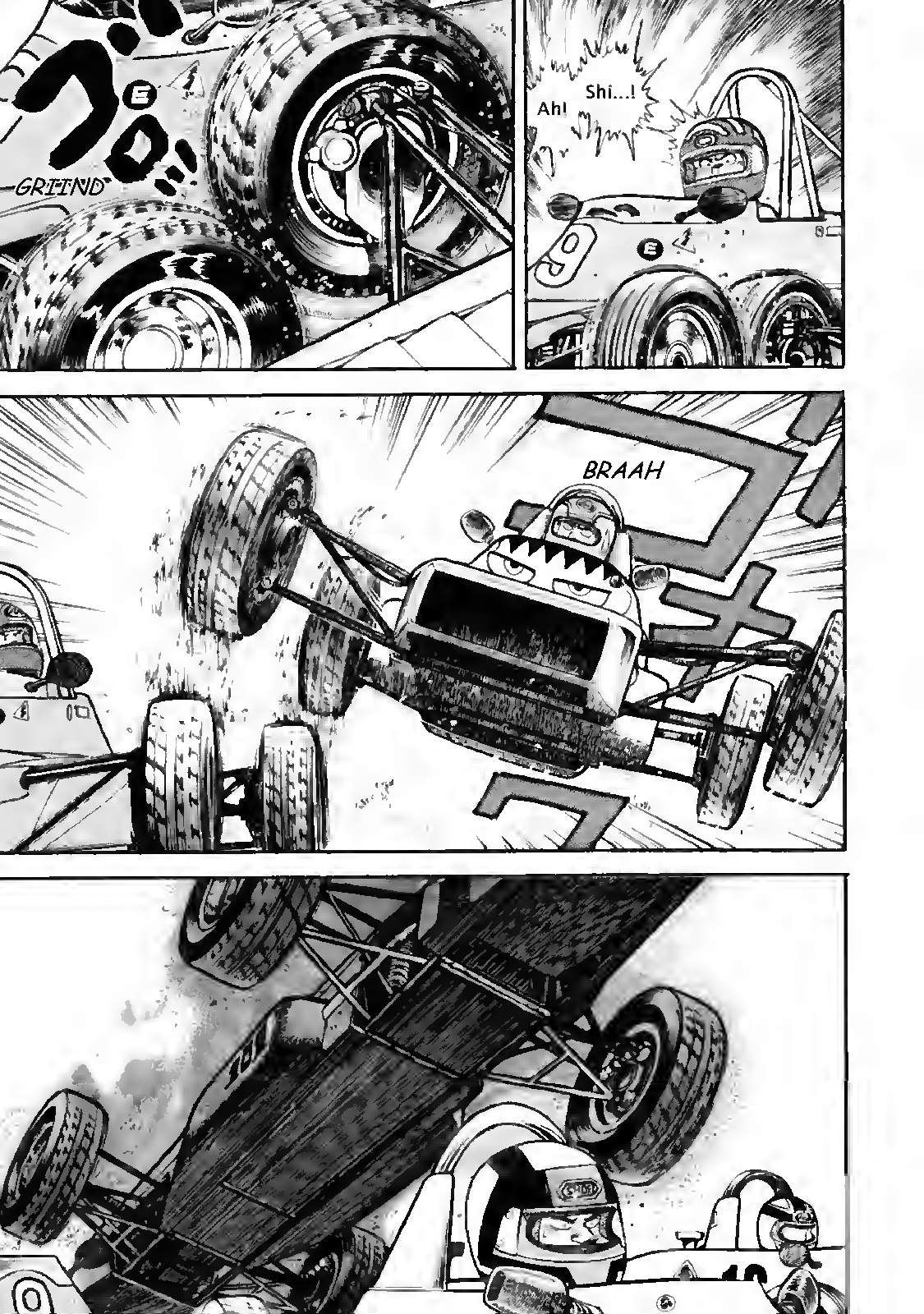

* A-arms = A-shaped car parts that connect the body to the wheels for support.

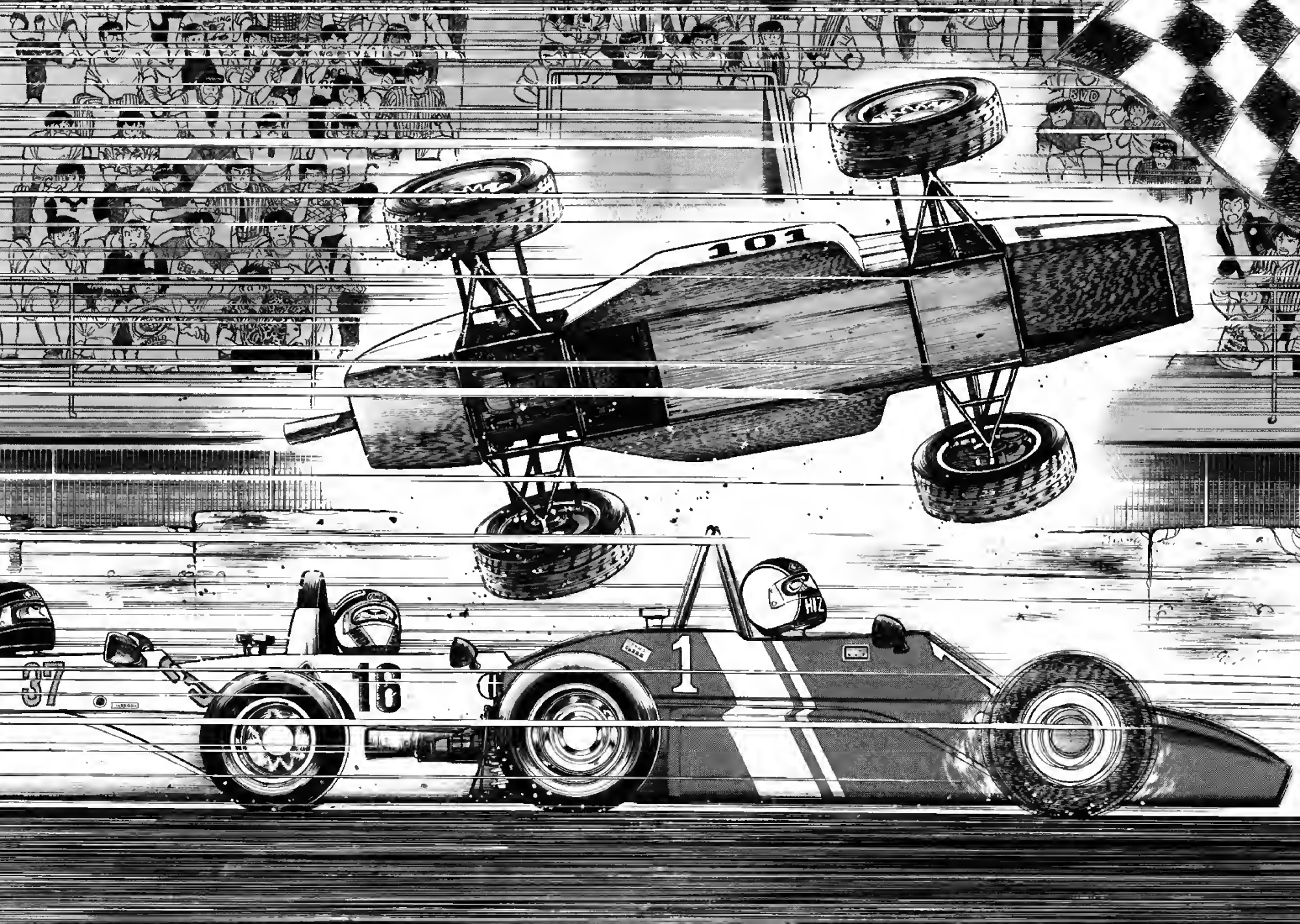
How come I gotta get caught up with these guys? They're laps behind!
Hijiri must be across the finish line by now.
I'm wasting my time here.
What did we get ourselves into with this psychopath!?
WOBBLE WOBBLE
!?
MORIOKA Racing
Screw this!
GUNMA
Hijiri?
Huh?
WOBBLE
WOBBLE
WOBBLE
1

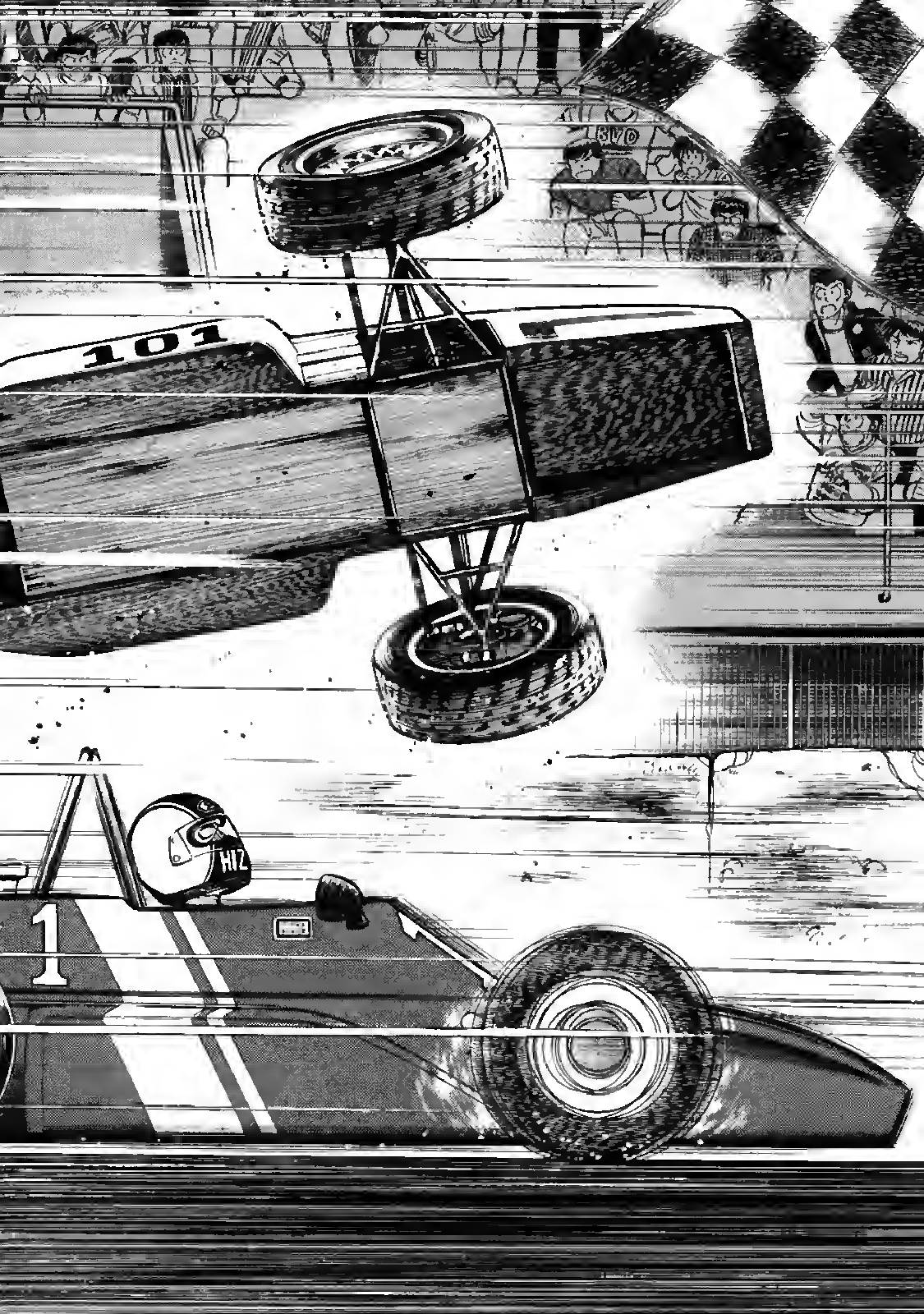
Hijiri is trying everything he can to stay in first as he turns into the last corner!
BRAAAH
BRAAAAH
Hijiri!
Hijiri ran into some bad luck on his final lap, getting into an accident causing his car to wobble.
He has recovered, but second place Gunma Akagi is now hot on his tail!
...
HIJIRI

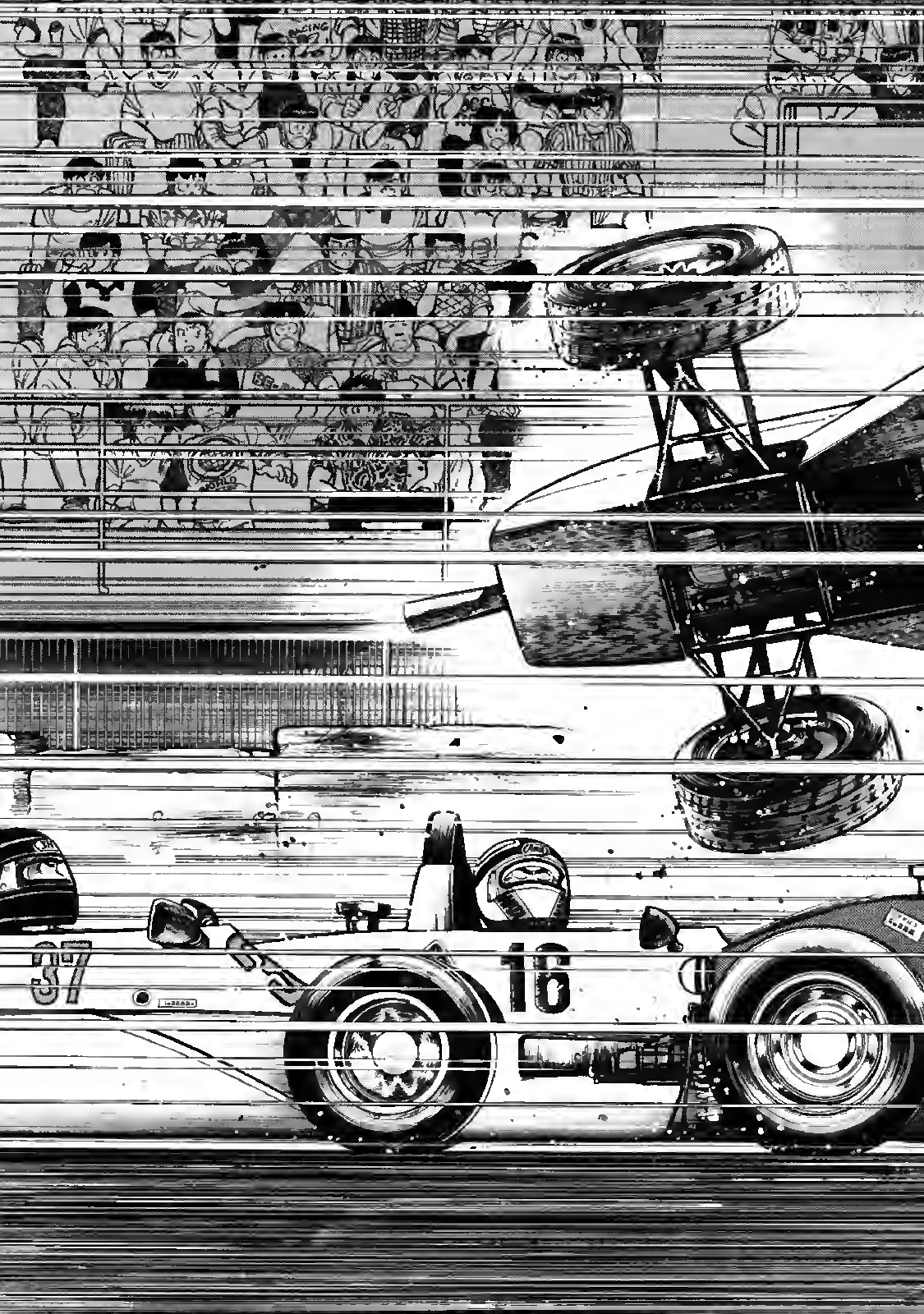
The checkered flag is up and ready!
And not far behind is Gunma Akagi, turning the last corner with a group of drivers on earlier laps!
ZOOOOOM
This is Akagi's chance to make a move!
Hijiri's car is wobbling back and forth!
We've come down to the home straight, folks!
ZOOOOOM
1
HIZIRI
16

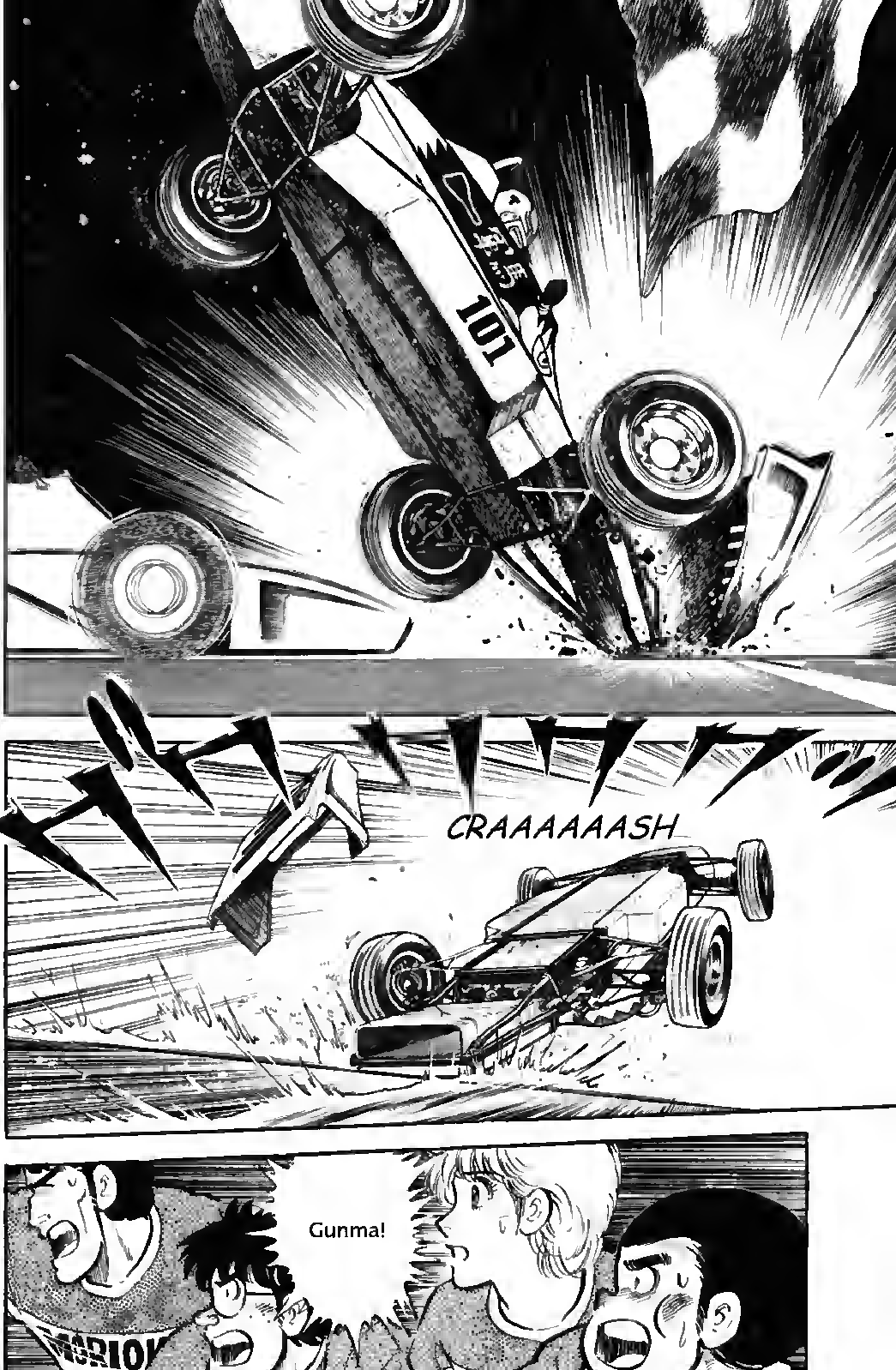
VROOOO
Outta the way!
But it almost seems as if those cars on earlier laps are protecting Hijiri from Akagi!
Who will be the first to finish!?
Come on!


GRIIND
Ah!
Shi...!
BRAAH


101
16
1
HIZ


101
HIZ
1

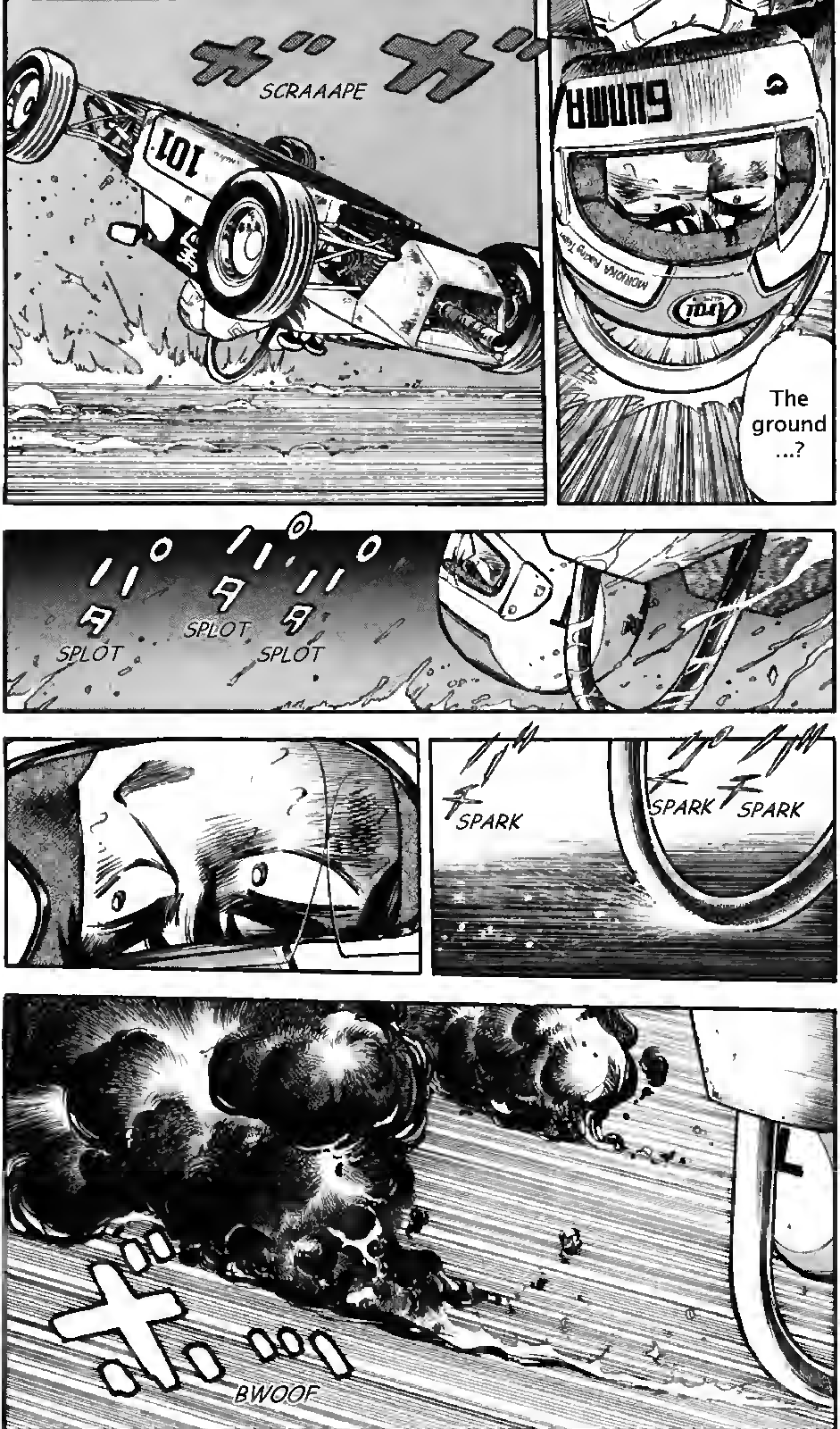

37
16


101
CRAAAAAASH
Gunma!

# Chapter 2: Exhaustion

HIZIRI
1
10
MORIOKA Racing
Arai
GUNMA


車両
3
GUNMA
MORIOKA Racing
Arai
ガッ
ガッ
SCRAAAPE


SCRAAAPE
101
BWUNG
The ground ...?
SPLOT
SPLOT
SPLOT
SPARK
SPARK
SPARK
BWOOF

V-WOOSH
FROAAR
16
18
HONDA
HONDA

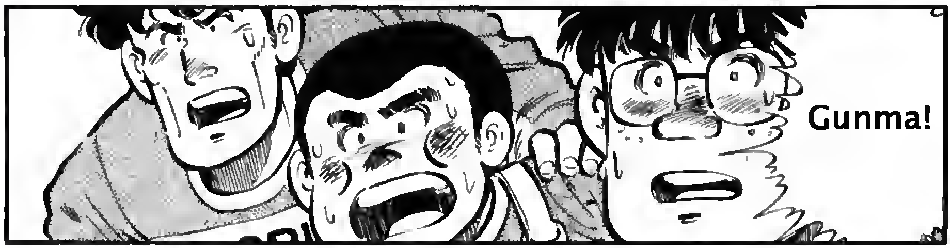
ドガガ
FROAAR

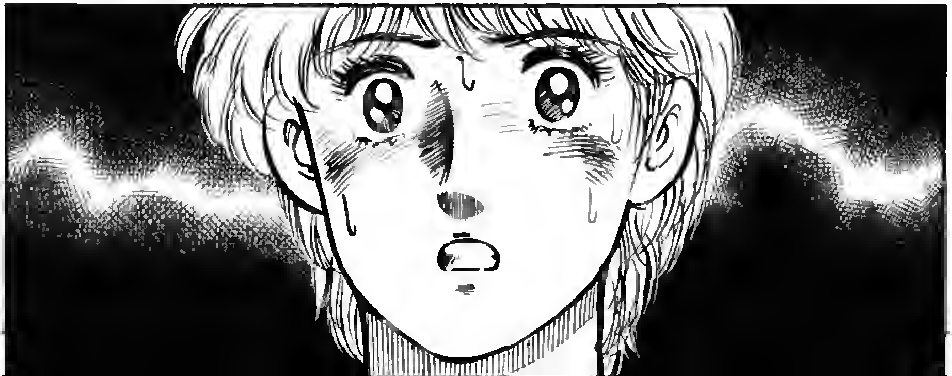
16
V-WOOSH
18
HONDA
HONDA

Gunma!
MUTTER
MUTTER
They need to put that out immediately! Go! Go!
Some gasoline may have leaked out in the crash and...
Oh my! Akagi's car is on fire!

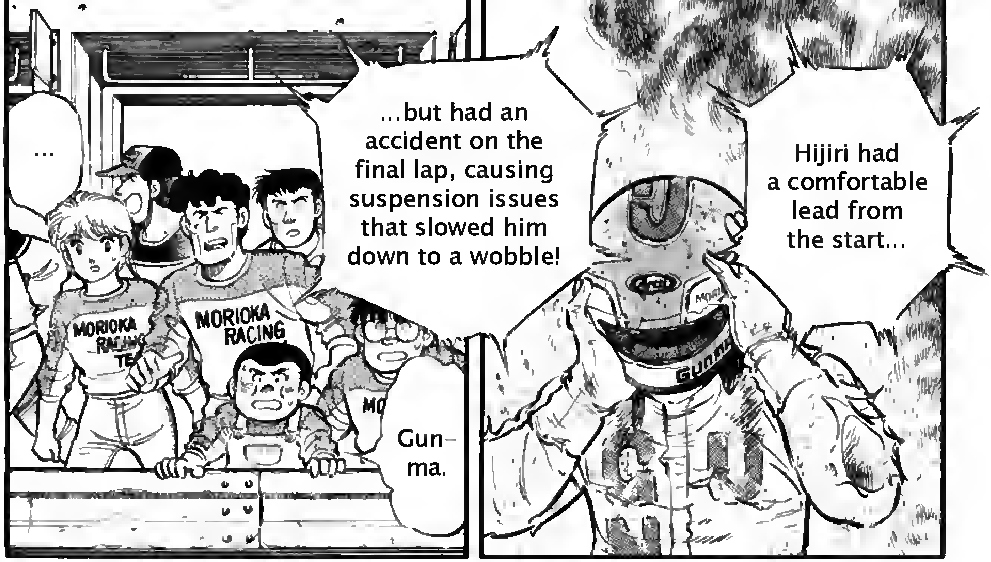
PSHHHHH
Bingo.
There was a... fire extin-guisher in here.
Stay here! It's too dan-gerous!
PSHHH
PSHHH
PSHHH
THUMP
GUNMA

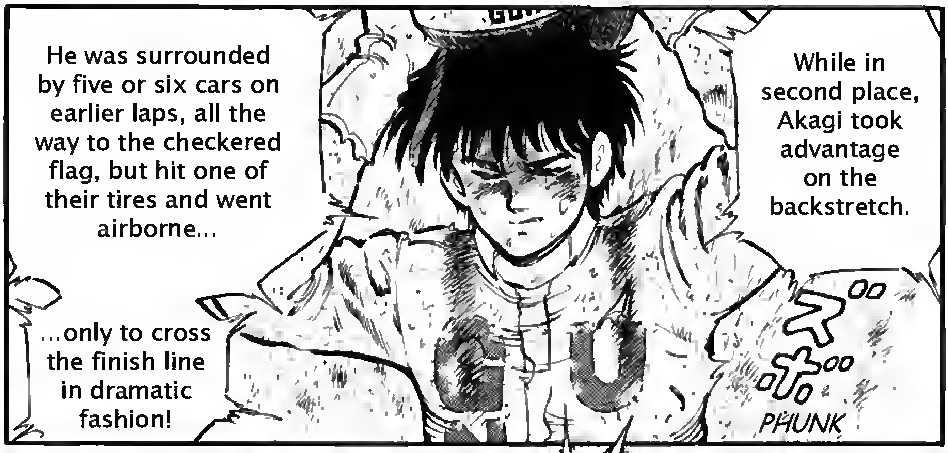
Phew.


Gunma!

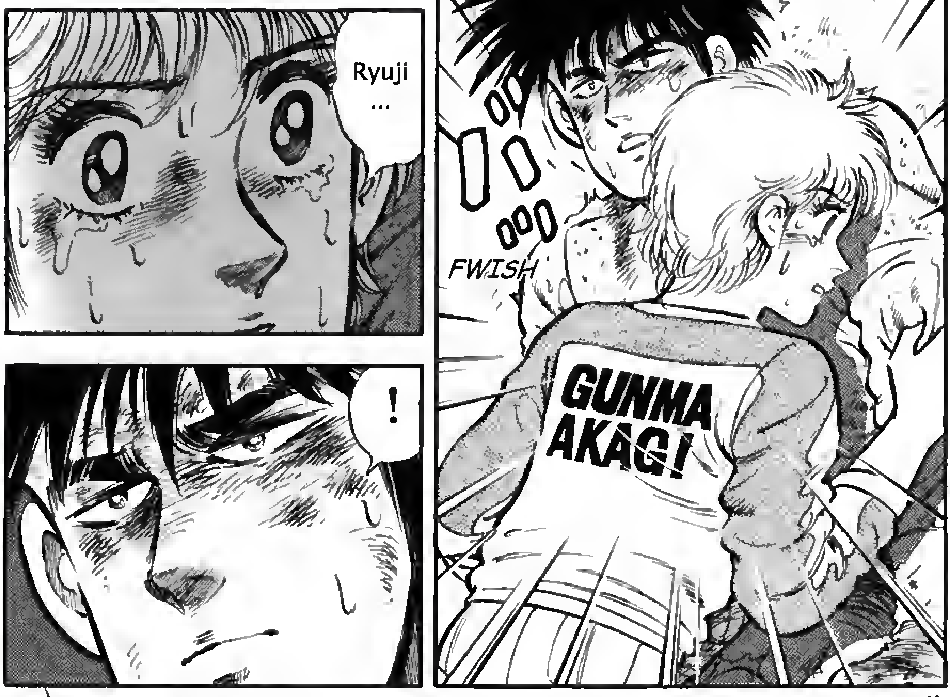


He's all right! Gunma Akagi is all right!
He escaped the burning vehicle on his own!
BRAAAAH
BRAAAAH
He's covered in foam from the fire extinguisher, and is making his way back to the pit!
What incredible drama we've witnessed to the very end of the race!
HONDA
HONDA

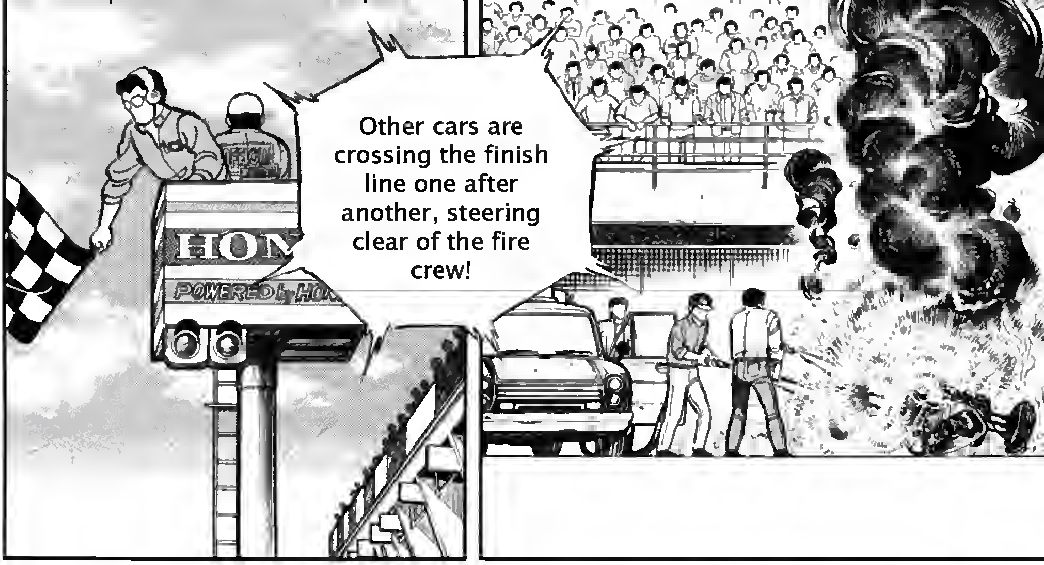

...
...but had an accident on the final lap, causing suspension issues that slowed him down to a wobble!
Hijiri had a comfortable lead from the start...
MORIOKA RACING
Gun-ma.

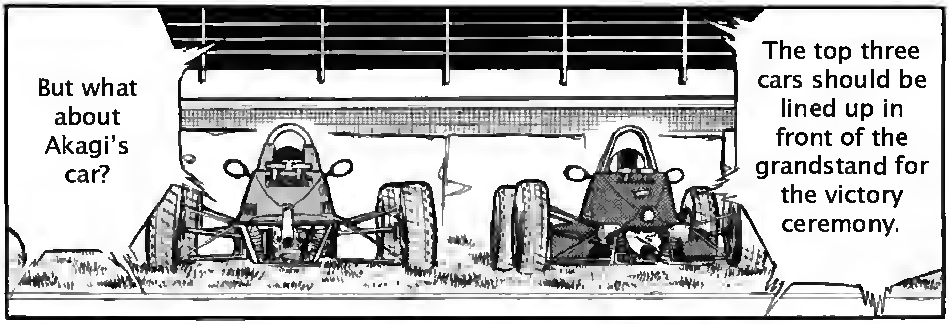

He was surrounded by five or six cars on earlier laps, all the way to the checkered flag, but hit one of their tires and went airborne...
While in second place, Akagi took advantage on the backstretch.
...only to cross the finish line in dramatic fashion!
PHUNK

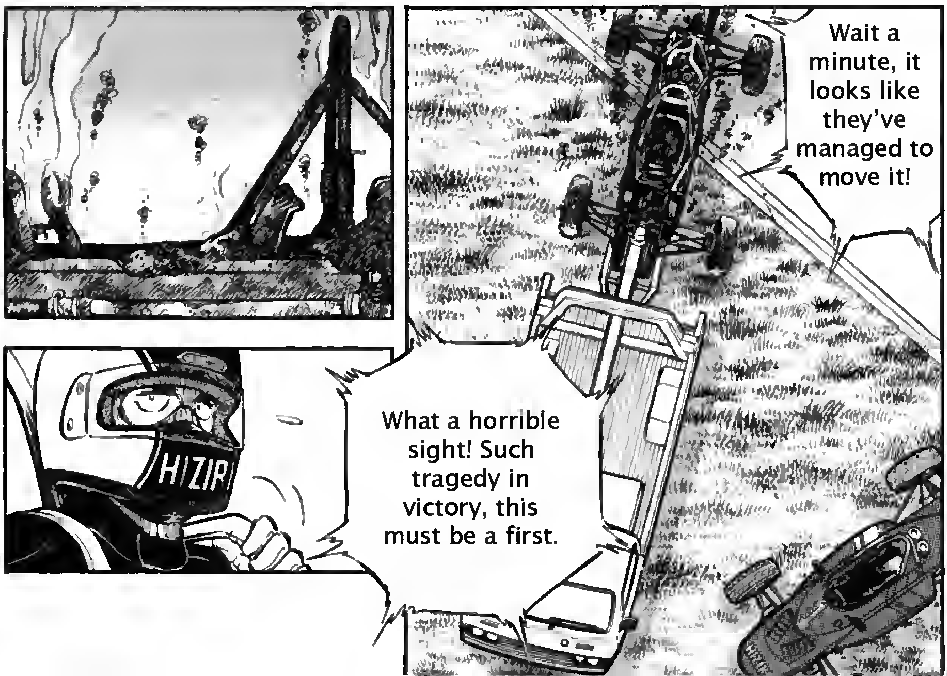
Could the top spot belong to...


Ryuji ...
!
FWISH
GUNMA AKAGI

He did it, folks! He totaled his car but managed to get his first victory in the process!
The official results are now on the board. As I suspected, first place goes to No. 101, Gunma Akagi!
GUNMA AKAGI
LAP
101
H
M
INV
10


Other cars are crossing the finish line one after another, steering clear of the fire crew!


But what about Akagi's car?
The top three cars should be lined up in front of the grandstand for the victory ceremony.


Wait a minute, it looks like they've managed to move it!
What a horrible sight! Such tragedy in victory, this must be a first.

No Smoking
...
MORIOKA
MORIOKA RACING TEAM
GLUG
GLUG GLUG
...
I'm fine.
CHUK
We gotta get you to the medical room.
Ain't you in pain?
Gunma!
Burp.
CLANG
You probably broke a few bones!
GULP GULP GULP
GUNMA AKAGI
Yeah. We better get you checked out!
B...but... Your adrenaline's still pumpin' now. You'll be hurtin' later.

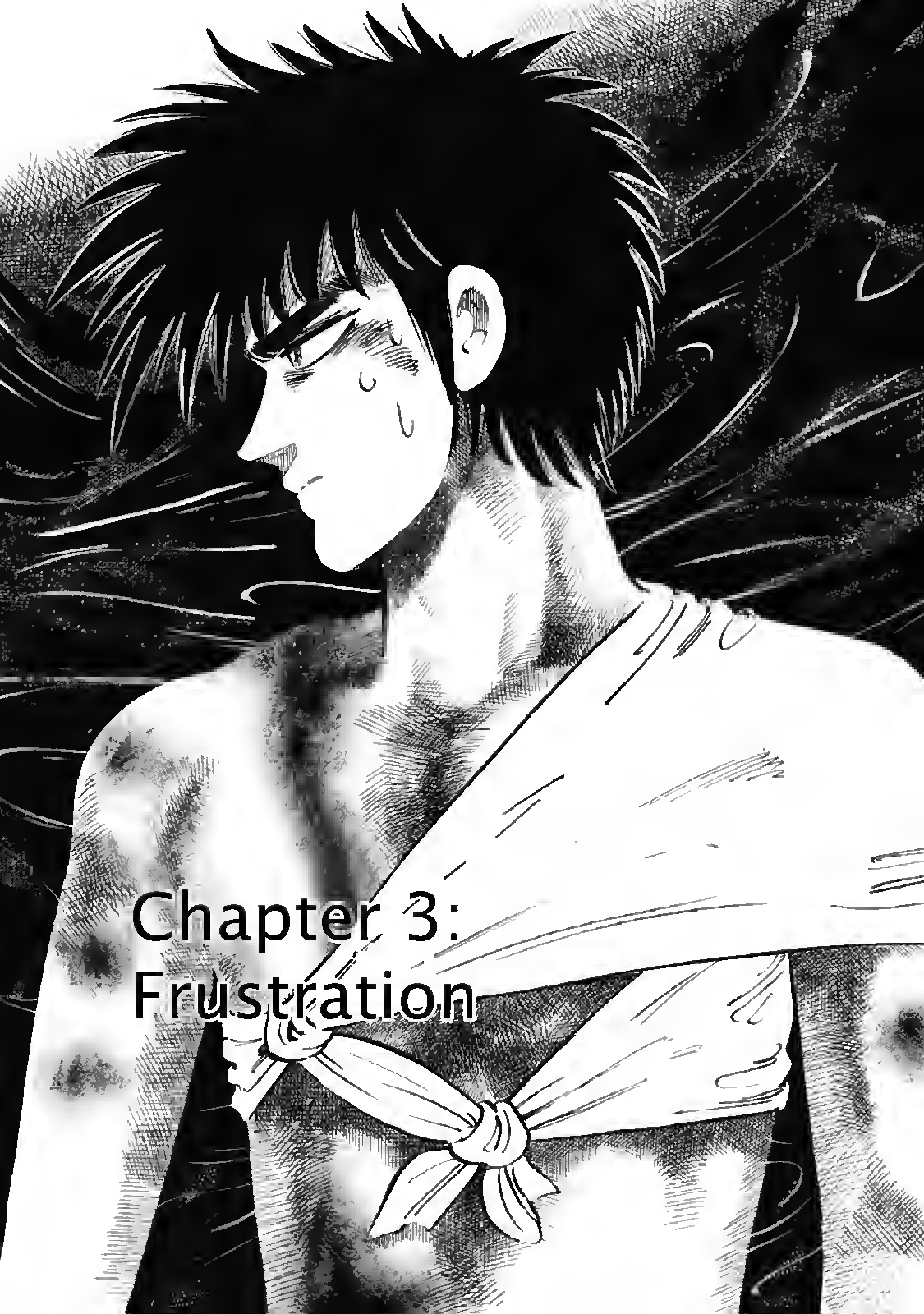
Are you nuts? We got the award ceremony to attend!
I got first place.
So you're goin' to the medical room?
Come on, let's go!
...
...
YEAH WOOHOO
He seems to be all right. What a tremendous athlete!
It looks like Gunma Akagi will be able to stand up on the podium!
Heh heh.
1
2
3

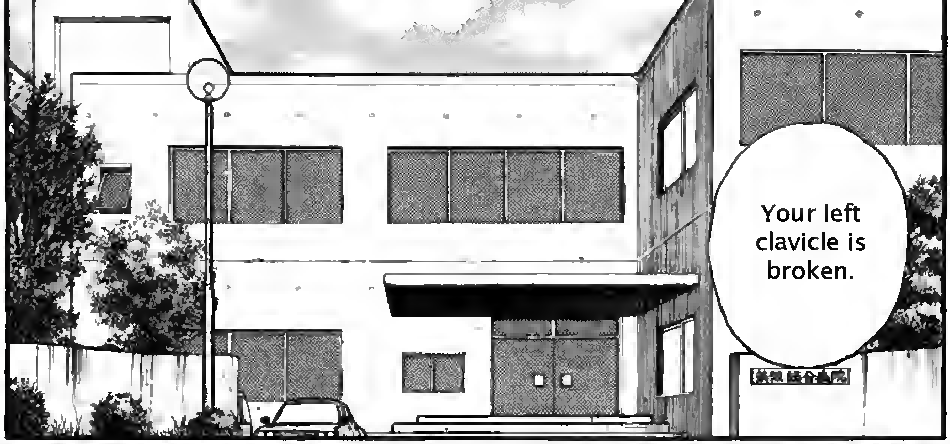
CLAP
WOOHOO
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
We've witnessed the birth of a new hero in FJ racing, folks!
Listen to that thunderous applause! Rookie driver Gunma Akagi has captured the hearts of this crowd with his spectacular driving!

SPLISSSHHH
Pee pee time!
HA HA HA HA HA HA
ROAR
Now I can see what he means.
Tamotsu said a lot of money's been burned on you.
And your car's burnt to a crisp.
That's a hell of a first victory.

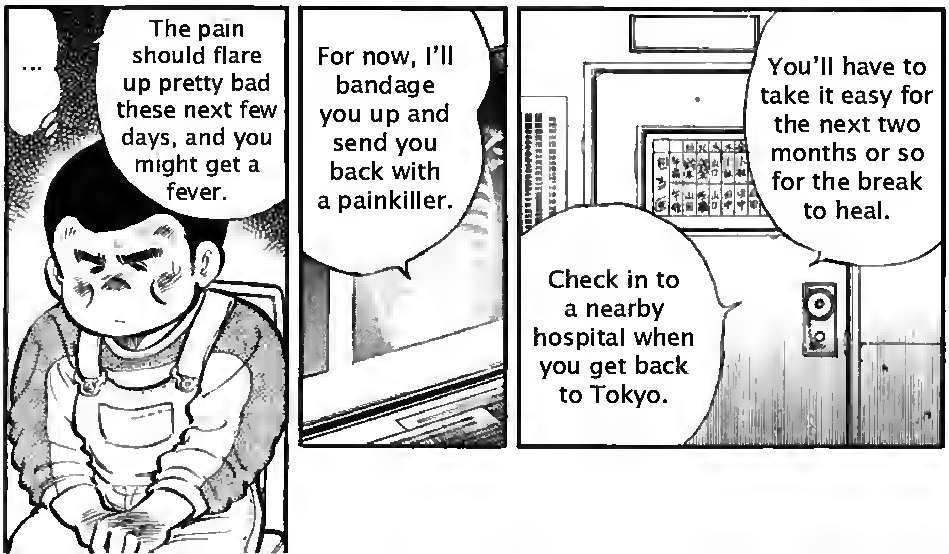
Well done.
But a win's a win, and you pulled it off.
Yoki
Hey Hijiri, don't wait up next time.

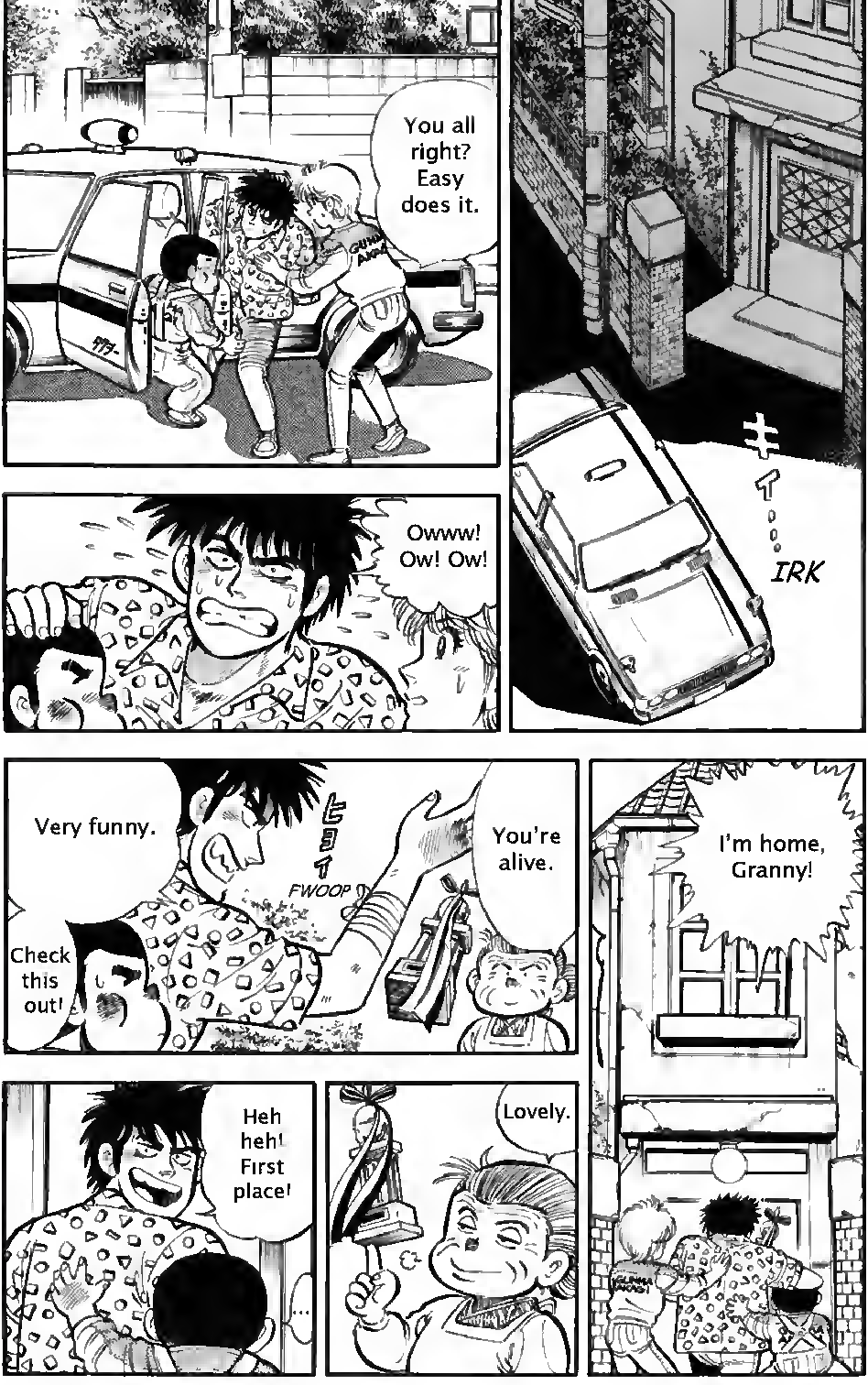
THUD
MORIOKA RACING TEAM
MORIOKA RACING TEAM

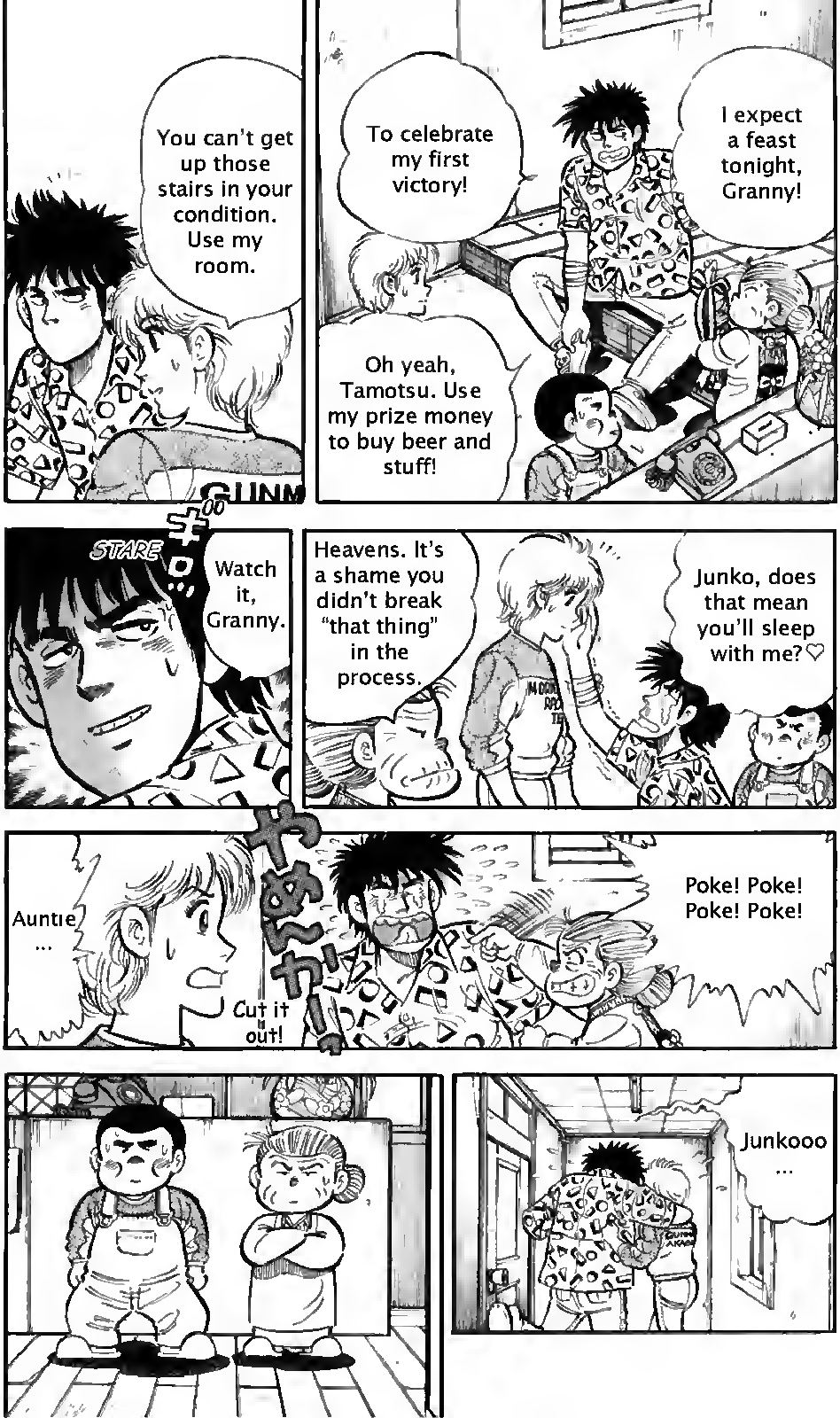

Chapter 3:
Frustration


Your left clavicle is broken.

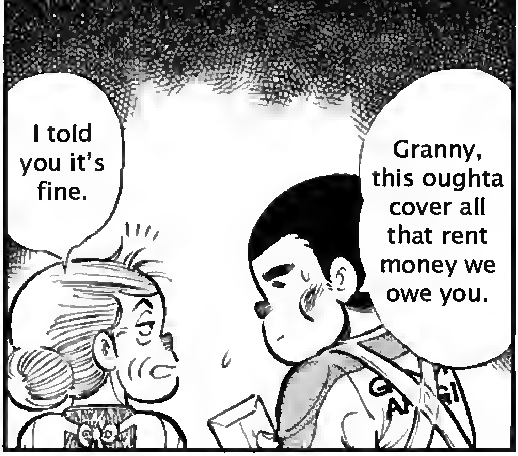
And I think you fell due to a minor concussion.
Your entire body is badly bruised.


...
The pain should flare up pretty bad these next few days, and you might get a fever.
For now, I'll bandage you up and send you back with a painkiller.
You'll have to take it easy for the next two months or so for the break to heal.
Check in to a nearby hospital when you get back to Tokyo.

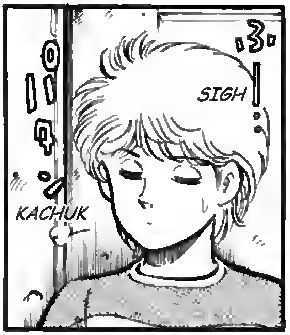

You all right? Easy does it.
Owww! Ow! Ow!
IRK
Very funny.
You're alive.
FWOOP
Check this out!
I'm home, Granny!
Heh heh! First place!
Lovely.


You can't get up those stairs in your condition. Use my room.
To celebrate my first victory!
I expect a feast tonight, Granny!
Oh yeah, Tamotsu. Use my prize money to buy beer and stuff!
STARE
Watch it, Granny.
Heavens. It's a shame you didn't break "that thing" in the process.
Junko, does that mean you'll sleep with me?♡
Auntie ...
やめーか!!
Cut it out!
Poke! Poke! Poke! Poke!
Junkooo ...

Please.
No, we can't keep living like this.

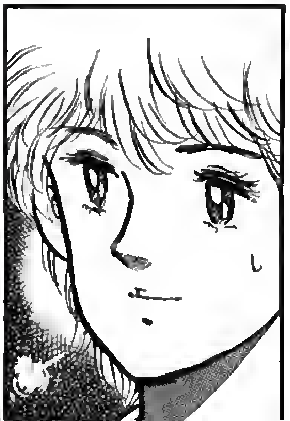

I told you it's fine.
Granny, this oughta cover all that rent money we owe you.

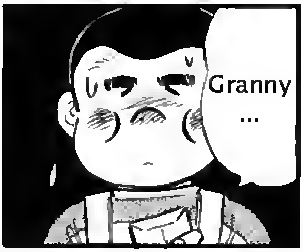
Well, I suppose I'll take it, but just the rent money.
You hold on to the rest!
Could you make us somethin' nice for dinner?
And use whatever's left over for the party tonight.

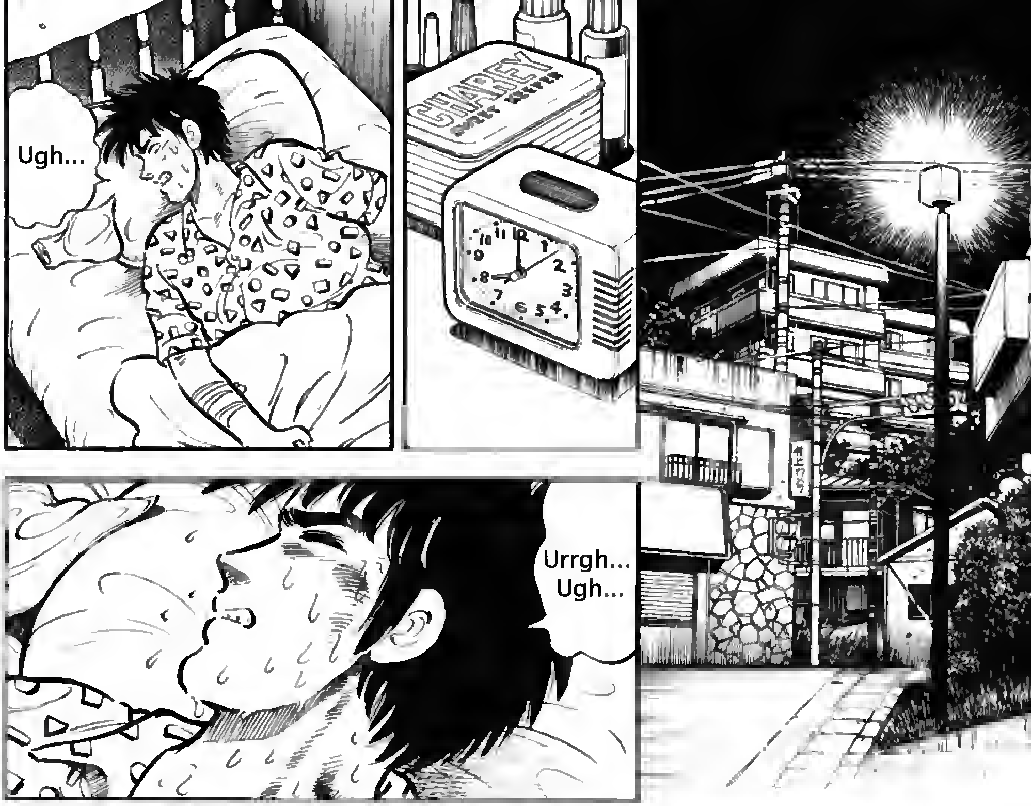

SIGH
KACHUK

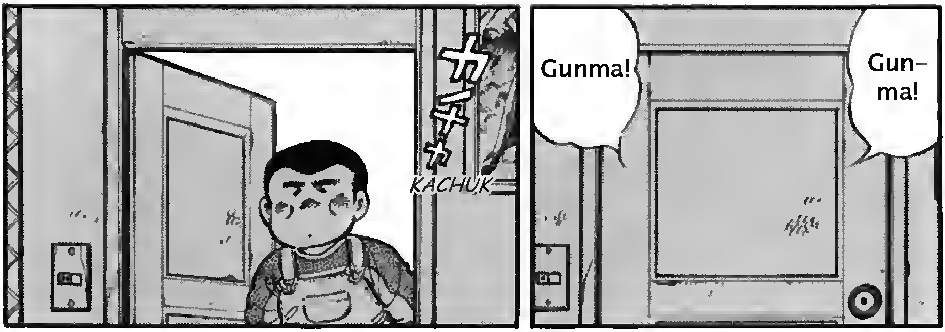
And don't start without me!
Make sure to come get me when it's ready.
Okay, okay.
MORIOKA RACING TEAM

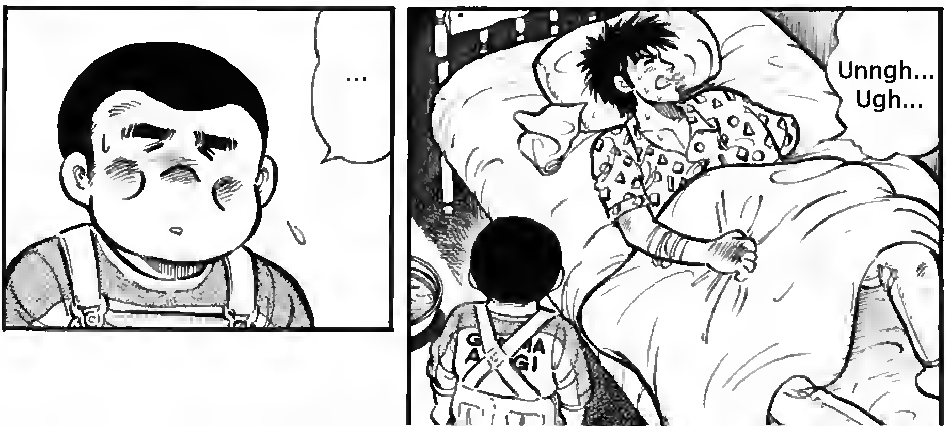
I can make quite an impressive meal with this!

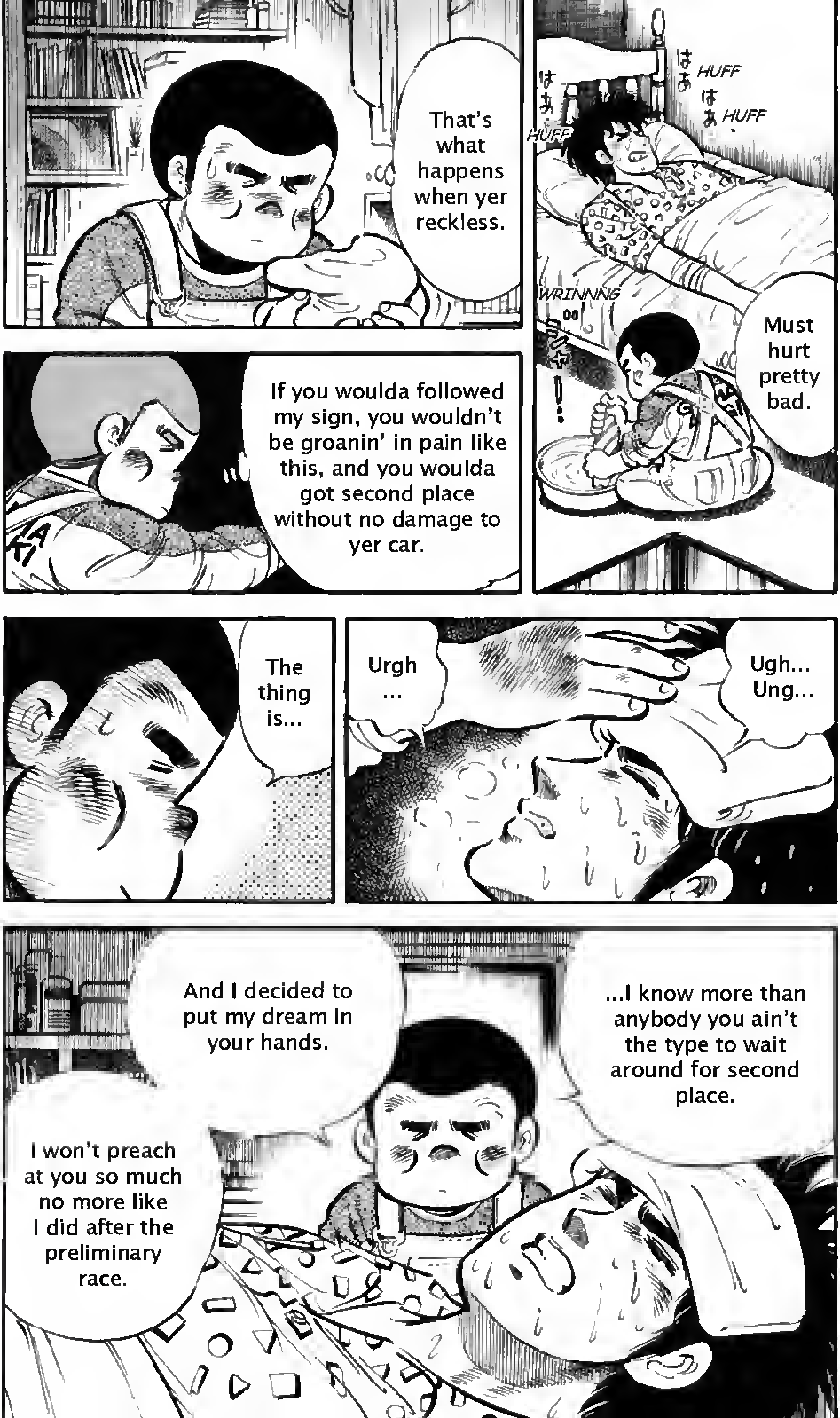



Granny ...


Ugh...
Urrgh...
Ugh...


KACHUK
Gunma!
Gun-
ma!

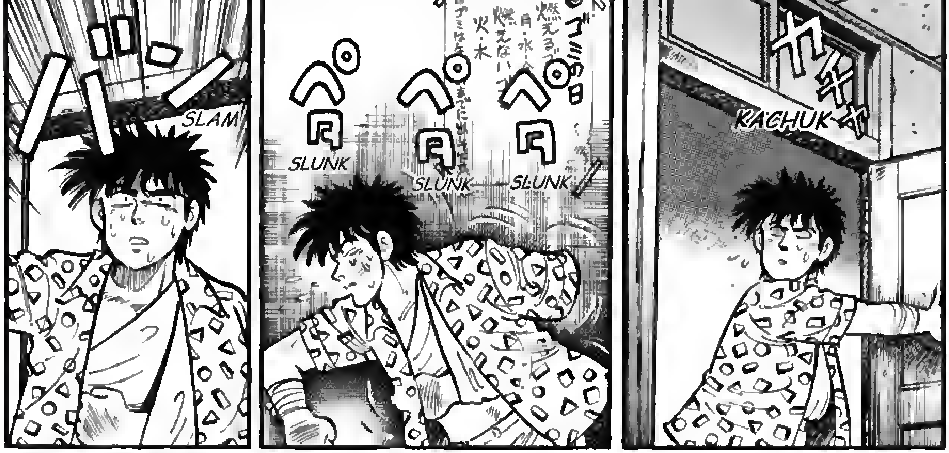

...
Unngh...
Ugh...

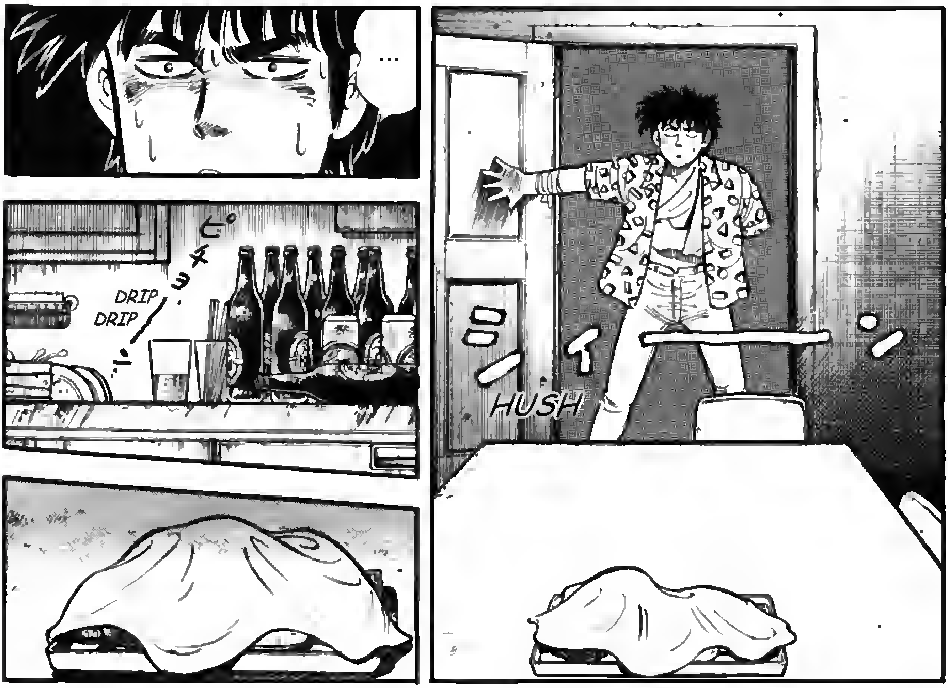

That's what happens when yer reckless.
はあ HUFF
はあ HUFF
HUFF
WRINNNG
Must hurt pretty bad.
If you woulda followed my sign, you wouldn't be groanin' in pain like this, and you woulda got second place without no damage to yer car.
KA
The thing is...
Urgh ...
Ugh... Ung...
And I decided to put my dream in your hands.
...I know more than anybody you ain't the type to wait around for second place.
I won't preach at you so much no more like I did after the preliminary race.

So far you and me got the same dream.
HUFF HUFF
But still...
...I want you to be prepared for one thing.
But if we ever differ on how to get there by a mile...
HUFF
We just differ a little on how to get there.
It is what it is. It's all right, I guess.
...you and me...
...are through for good!
Urgh ...
I don't wanna sacrifice you to get to my dream...
...and I don't want you sacrificin' me to get yours.
You get me, Gunma?

Seems like he's hurtin' pretty bad though.
Nah. That painkiller they gave him at the hospital knocked him out cold.
Is he awake?
MORIOKA RACING TEAM
Yes.
Better let him sleep it off.
Cheers!
Well, the race car is totaled, and Gunma's got broken bones...
...so I'm not sure if we're supposed to be happy or what. But here's to a hard fought first victory...
Right.
Let's start eating before it gets cold.
Mr. Morioka, how about a toast?
GUNMA

ばっ
WOOSH
Ugh
...
!
11
12
1
2
3
4
5
6
7

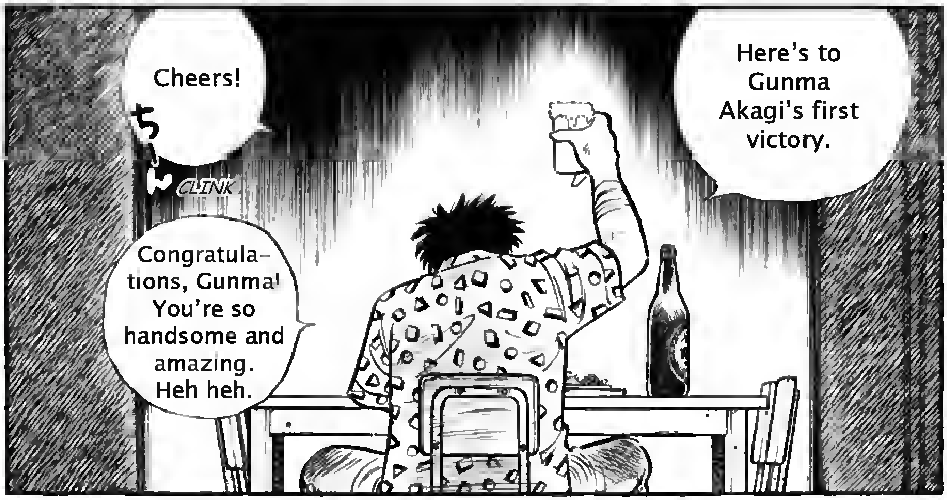

SLAM
SLUNK
SLUNK
SLUNK
KACHUK


...
DRIP
DRIP
HUSH

How come those jerks didn't wake me up!?
I was lookin' forward to that party too!
I slept through it!

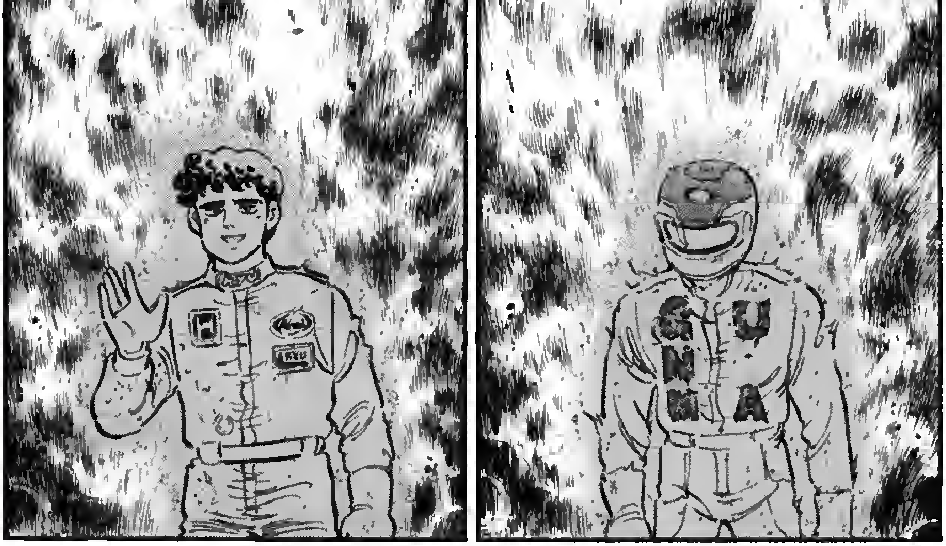
How cruel can you get?
はぁはぁ HUFF HUFF
Urrr– ggh!
Ouch.
CLANK
GLUG GLUG
Tsh. It's gone cold.
KIRIN
SHUK
Phew.

!

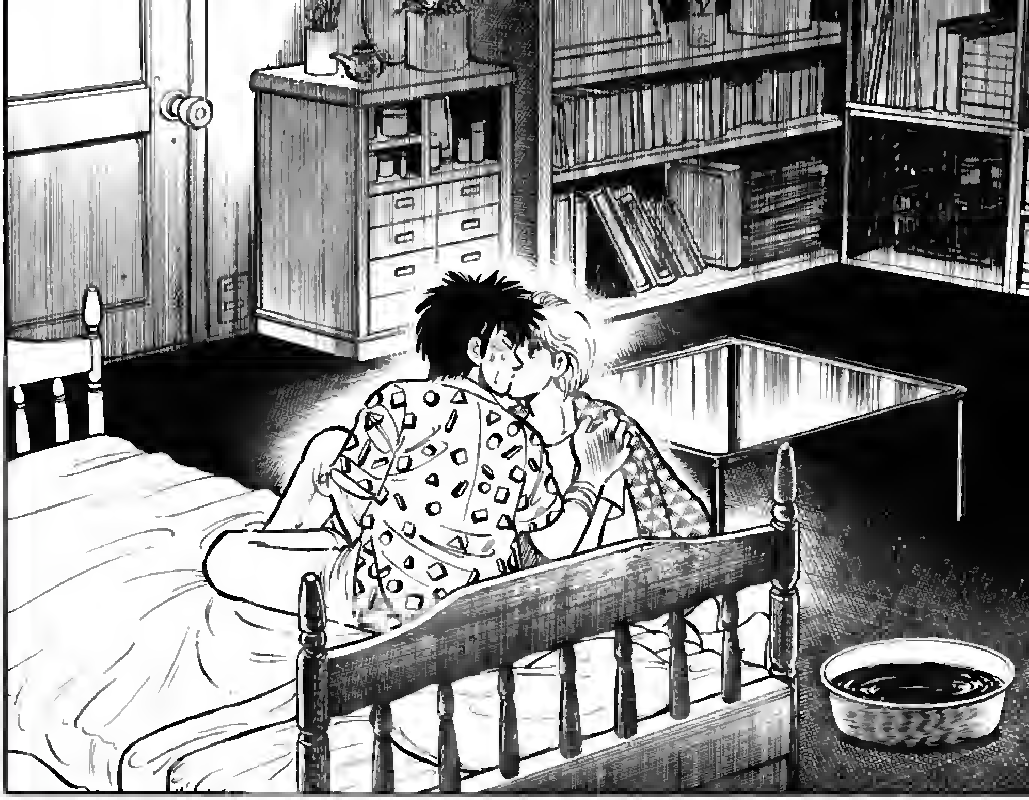

Cheers!
CLINK
Here's to Gunma Akagi's first victory.
Congratulations, Gunma! You're so handsome and amazing. Heh heh.

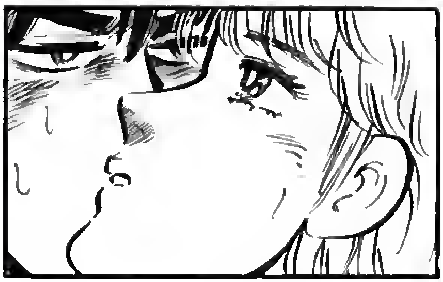
Dammit. The pain is back.
THROB THROB
ズキ
Urr– rrgh.
TUNK

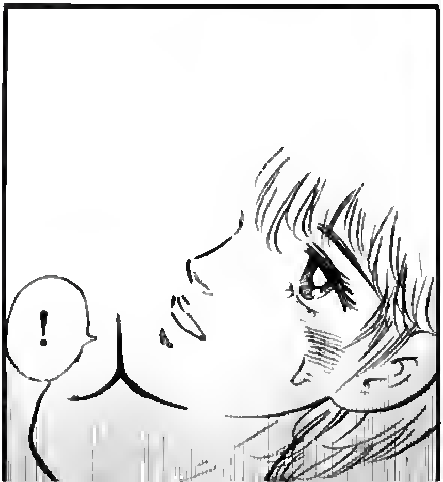
Okay, okay. Just hold on to me.
You guys betrayed me, enjoying the party without me. Oww...
What are you doing up? You need rest.
Junko.
Does it still hurt?
WRINNNG
HUFF HUFF HUFF
Look at you.
THUMP

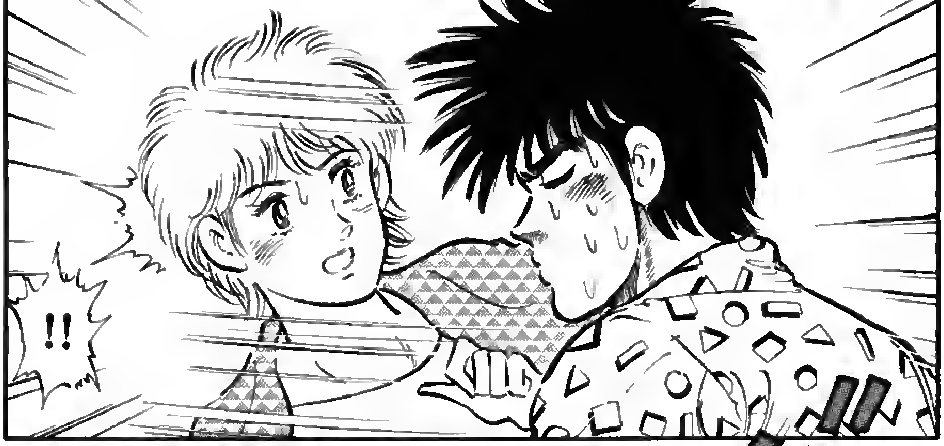

RYU
GUNMA

Ryuji...





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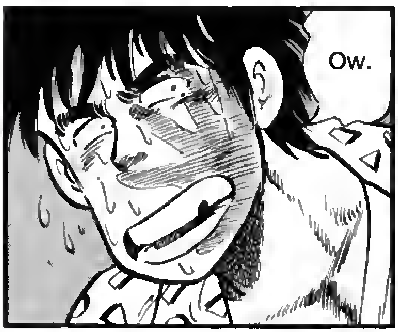
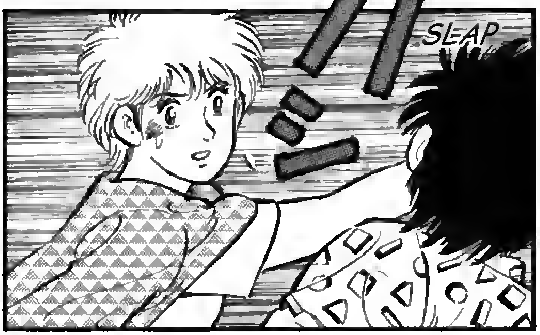
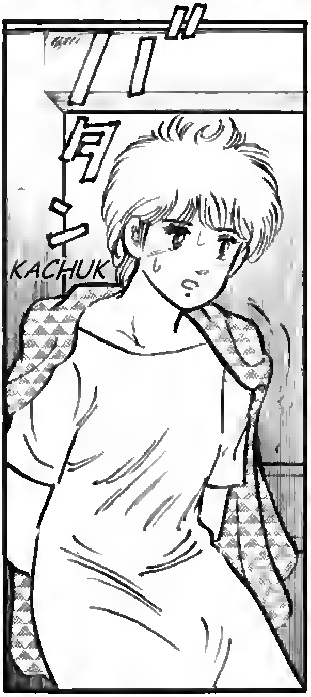
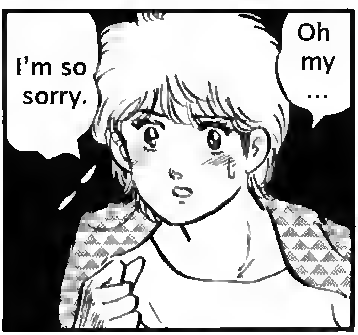

Ow.

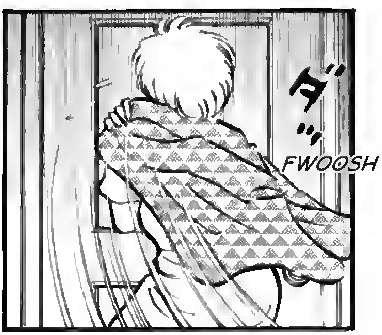

SLAP

HUFF HUFF


KACHUK

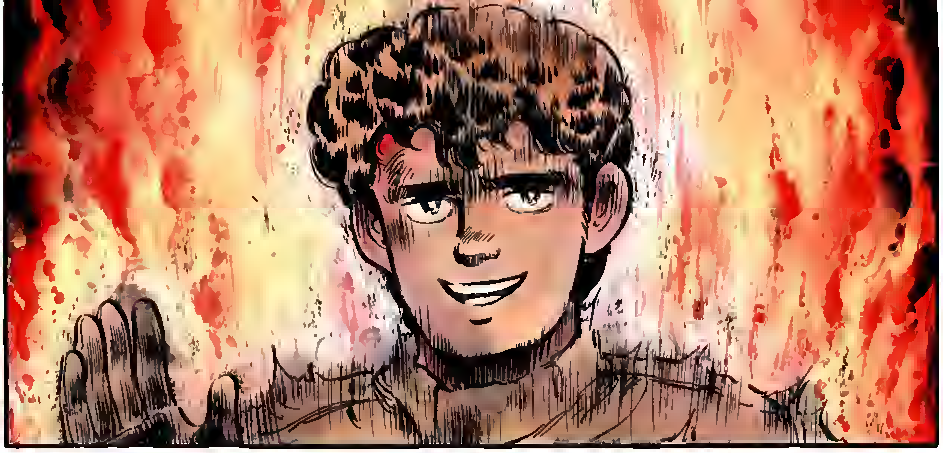

I'm so sorry.
Oh my ...

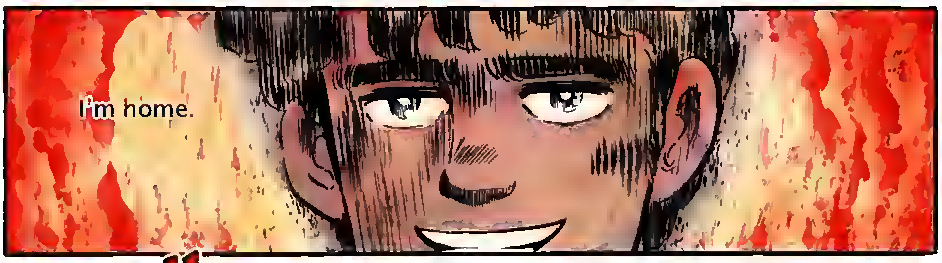


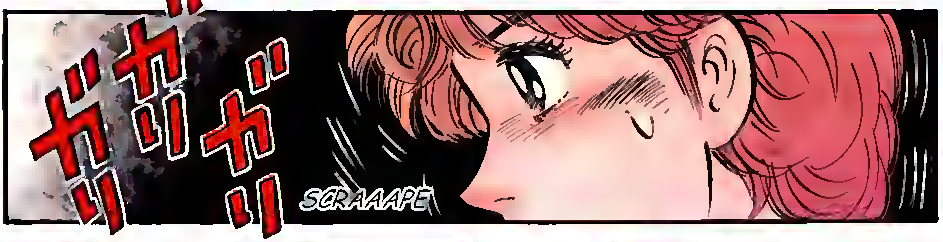

FWOOSH

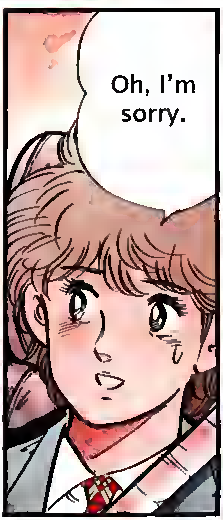
Stupid, stupid! What was I thinking?
Crap!

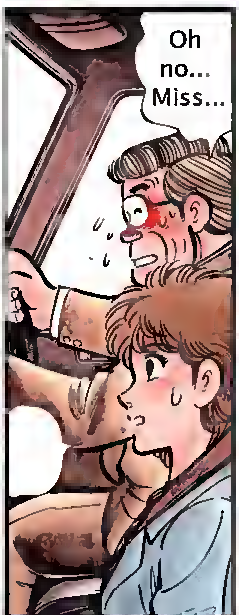
# Chapter 4: Forbidden Fruit

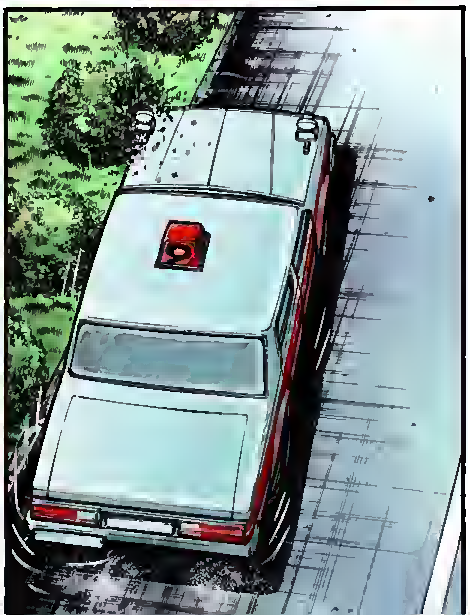


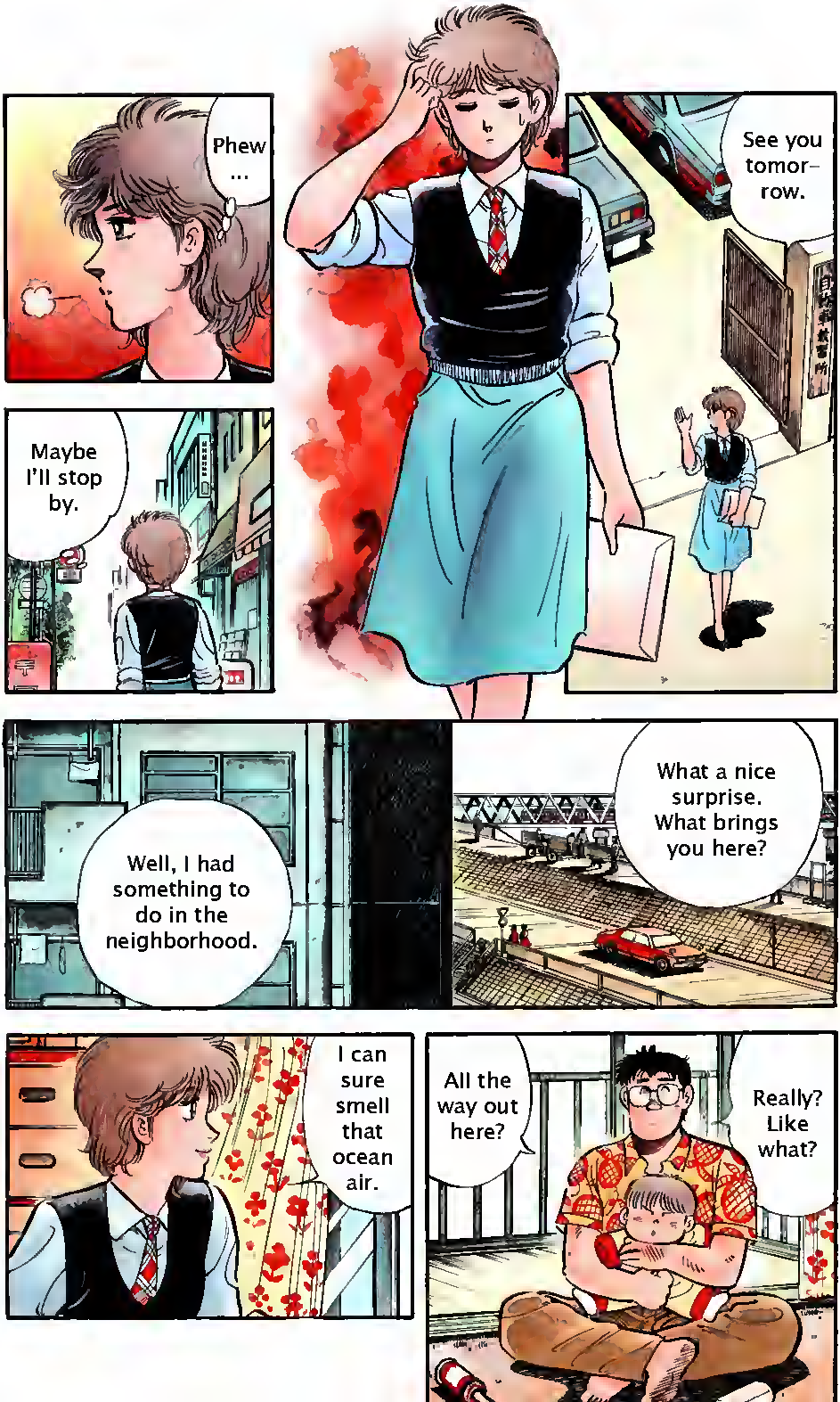

I'm home.

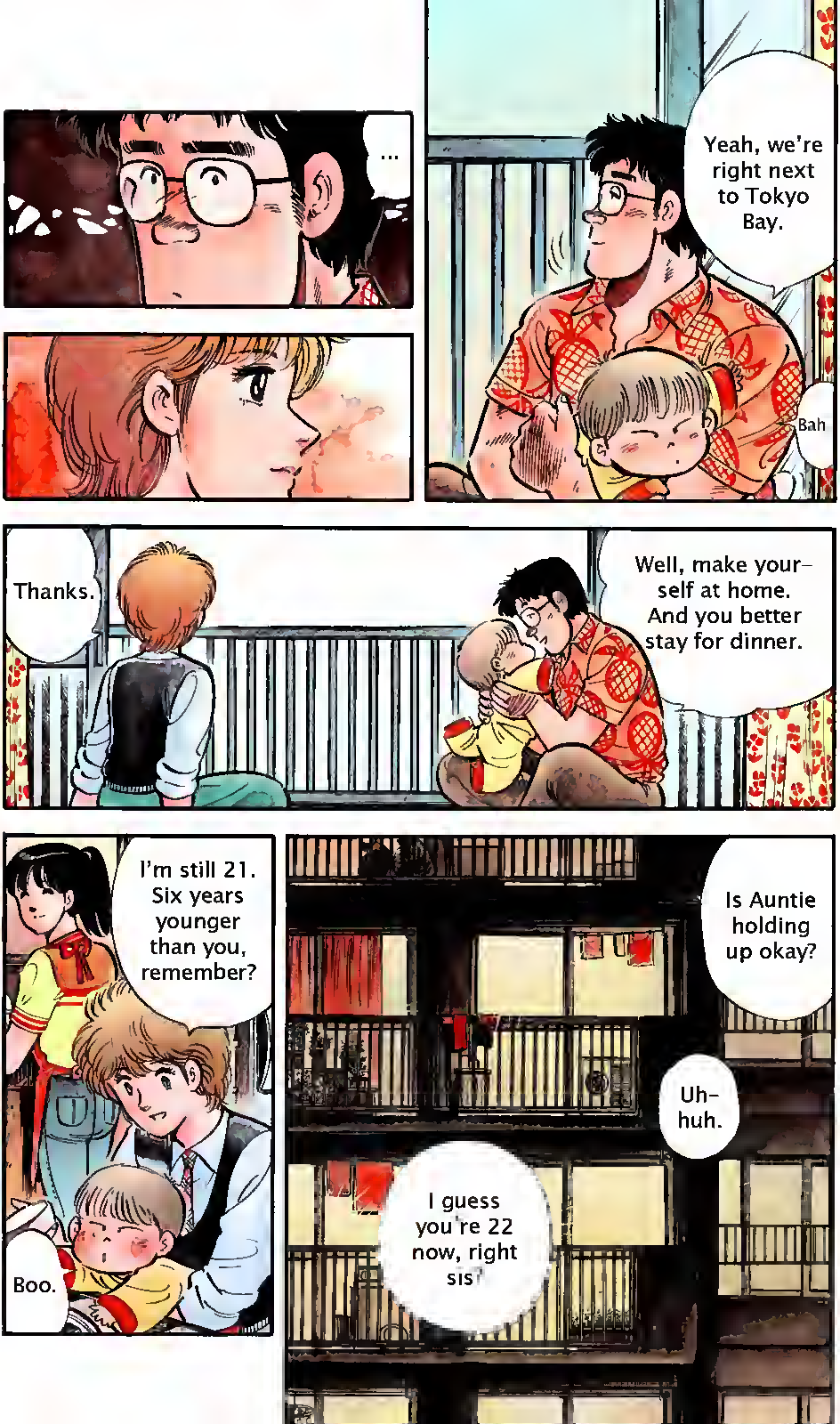

ガガガ
SCRAAAPE

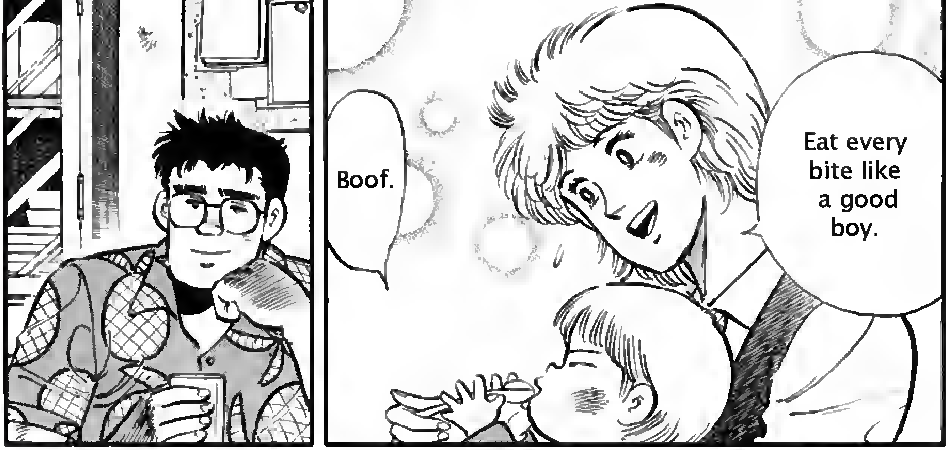

Oh, I'm sorry.


Oh no... Miss...

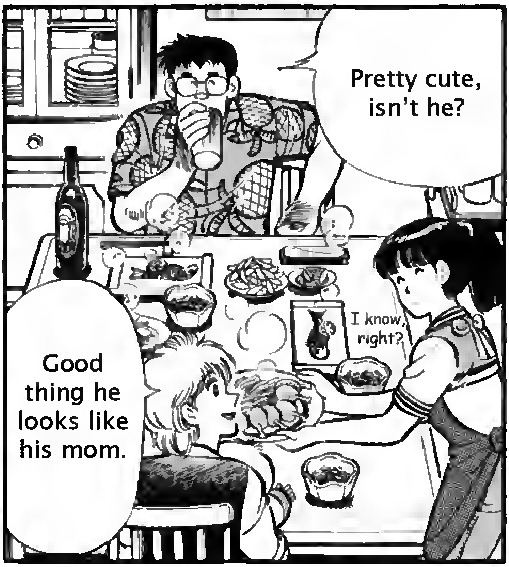


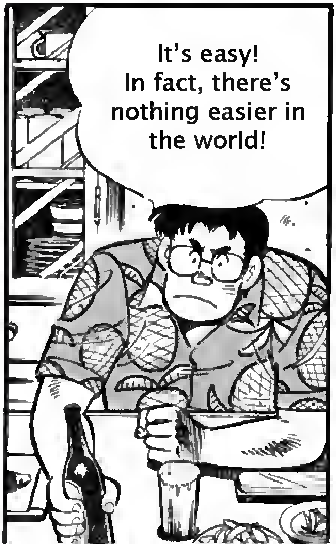

Phew ...
See you tomor-row.
Maybe I'll stop by.
Well, I had something to do in the neighborhood.
What a nice surprise. What brings you here?
I can sure smell that ocean air.
All the way out here?
Really? Like what?

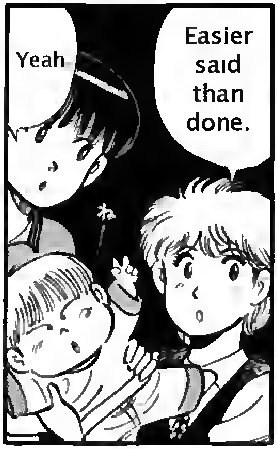

...
Yeah, we're right next to Tokyo Bay.
Bah
Thanks.
Well, make yourself at home. And you better stay for dinner.
I'm still 21. Six years younger than you, remember?
Boo.
Is Auntie holding up okay?
Uh-huh.
I guess you're 22 now, right sis?


Boof.
Eat every bite like a good boy.

Thanks, Junko. I'll take him off your hands.
Tsh.
Aww, let me hold him a little longer!


Pretty cute, isn't he?
I know, right?
Good thing he looks like his mom.


It's easy! In fact, there's nothing easier in the world!

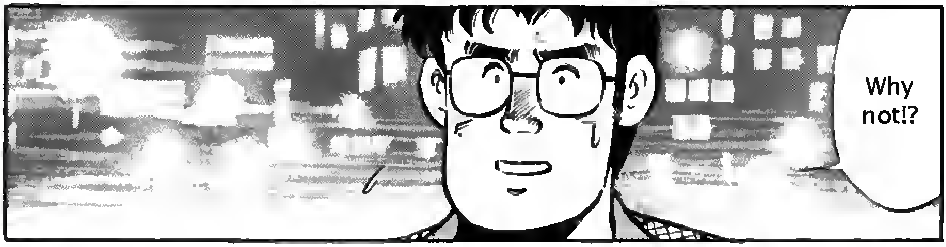

Yeah
Easier said than done.

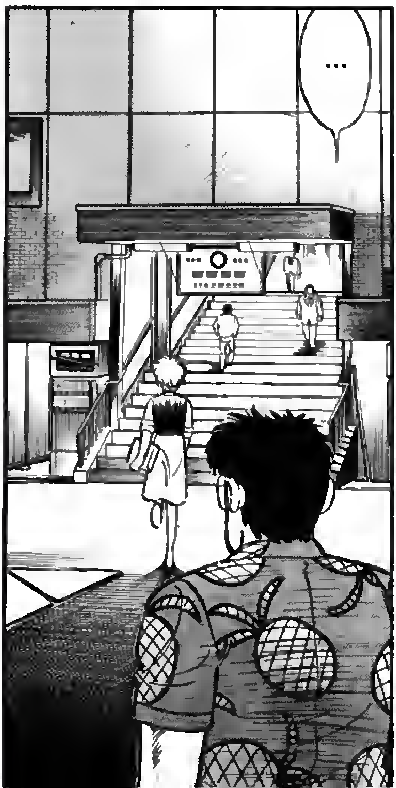
If you like kids, make your own.
Nope.
GLUG
GLUG

Honey!
Um...
If you want, I know a few horny young guys I can introduce you to. Just say the word.
I'm serious.
What?
Give Auntie my best.
Work's got me too busy to get over there and see her.
Junko ...
Yeah?
Okay.
カラン: FLIP FLOP

Kind of.
...
...with that racing stuff?
Are you still fooling around...
It's been almost two years since the accident.
...
I knew it. Still can't get Ryuji off your mind, huh?
Of course I am. You're my sister.
Wow. Are you worried about me?
But maybe it's time for you to start making an effort to forget.
I mean, a woman at your age...
Maybe that's too soon for you to put it to rest.

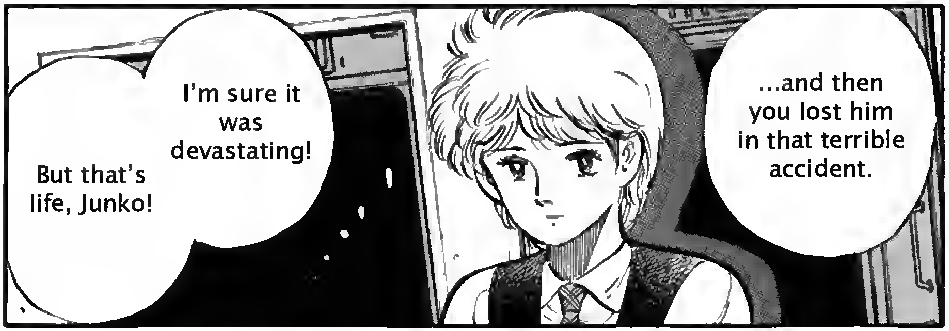
コク・
NOD
...you can't fall in love with anyone else!?
In other words ...
But I don't think I can ever forget about him, for as long as I live.
I appreciate the concern.


Why not!?

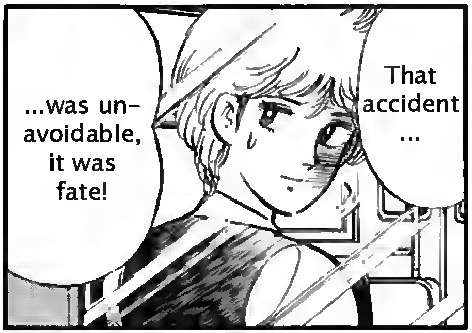

...

I think I'll always be jealous of the forbidden fruit that Ryuji ate.
I don't know how to put it. I guess ...

I mean, there's no doubt you and Ryuji were head over heels in love...
See, I don't get that! I just don't understand how you think!
BROOOH

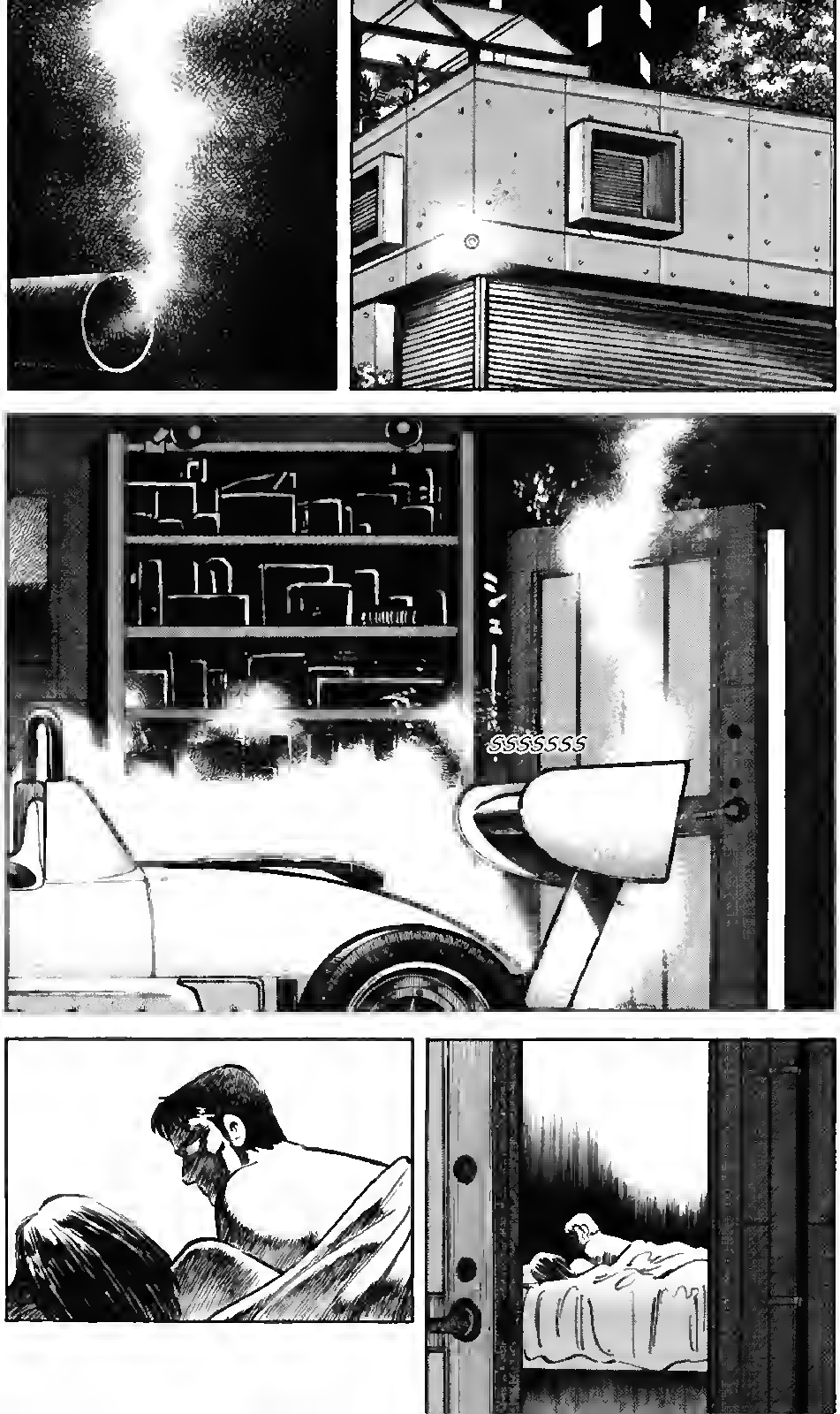

But that's life, Junko!
I'm sure it was devastating!
...and then you lost him in that terrible accident.

...Ryuji was drawn to something more appealing than me...
On that day...
BROOOH
...and he left.


...was un-avoidable, it was fate!
That accident ...

That's not true.
No.

BROOOH

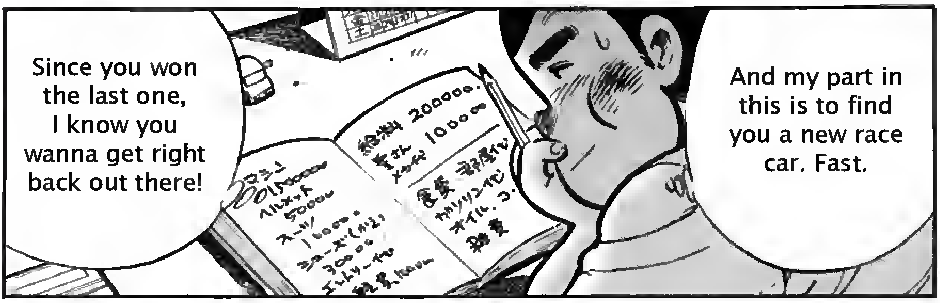

SSSSSS

Tamotsu's dropping by tomorrow.
And I want him to sign this.
Yeah, it's no-thing.
You okay?
So he'll work exclusively as my personal mechanic.
It's a contract.
Think he'll do it?
I dunno.
I'm not sure.
If I can get him to sign it, I'll enter F3 as early as possible!

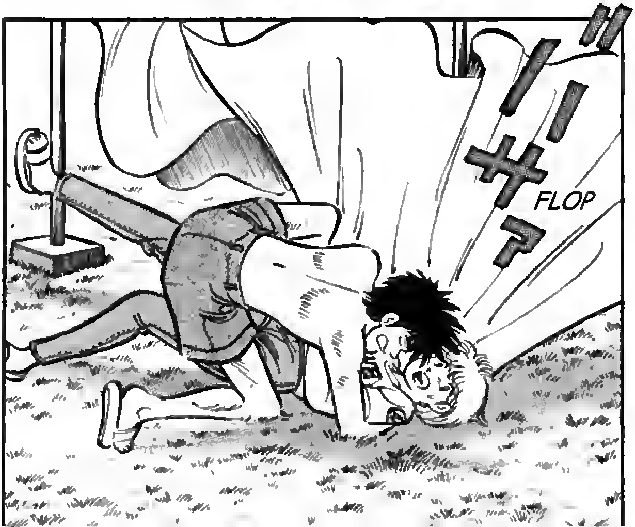
TSS
Of course not.
You're gonna force him to sign it, aren't you.
...up against a selfish, mentally inferior kid like Akagi.
It's my talent and your body...
The choice is Tamotsu's to make.
The problem is, how attached is he to Gunma Akagi?
But this is the chance of a lifetime for him.
Heh heh... Ha ha ha ha! You're funny... Ha ha ha!
Hey.
What if I fall in love with that little biddy country boy? What would you do?

Urrr–
rrrn–
gh...
Grr
...
Urrrr–
rrngh
...
I'm going
shopping.
Keep it
up,
soldier!
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
ドゴ
THUMP

I under-stand how you feel...
Gunma, I know you wanna recover fast and get right back in the race.
Are you okay? Don't overdo it.


Since you won the last one, I know you wanna get right back out there!
And my part in this is to find you a new race car. Fast.

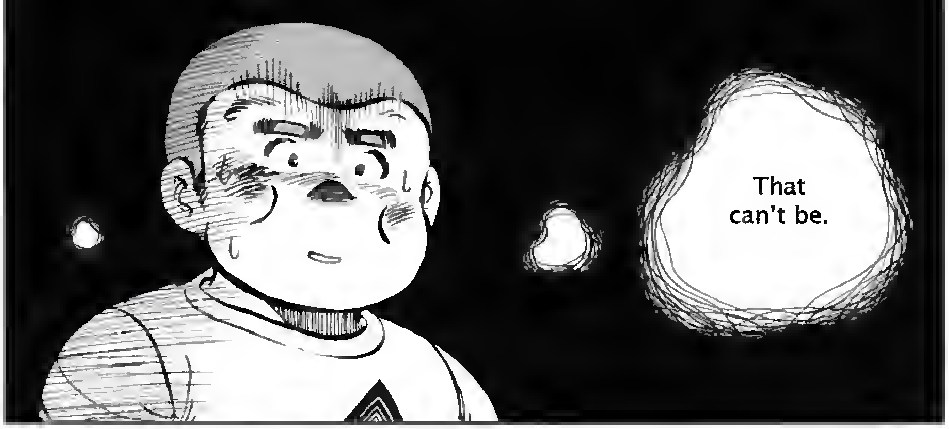
Hey!


FLOP

Trust me, Gunma. I'll get you the car you need as soon as possible!
All you gotta worry about is gettin' better.

Get off me, you pervert!
Call me what you want!
Gimme another kiss.
Heh, I don't think so.
Stop it!
What ...
Gunma ...
Gu...
You stop that, Gunma!
That idiot.
Now what?
TAK
TAK
TAK
...
Tamo-tsu...
!!
Dude! Shut up and get lost!

As proof, we fooled around on her bed the other night!
She loves it, you moron!
TREMBLE TREMBLE
Please Gunma... Junko said no.
When she says no and you don't stop, that's a crime.
CRACK
...
Ain't that right, Junko!
...
Stupid... chick...
Fooled around...
Unnn- gh... Guh... Guh... Guh...


That can't be.

What kinda friend are you!?
Look at me bustin' my butt to get better even though I'm in pain.

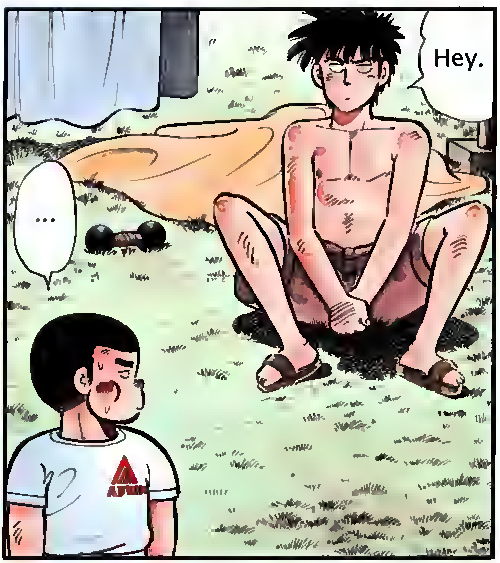
Ta-motsu, you little twerp!
Stop standin' around and find me a race car!

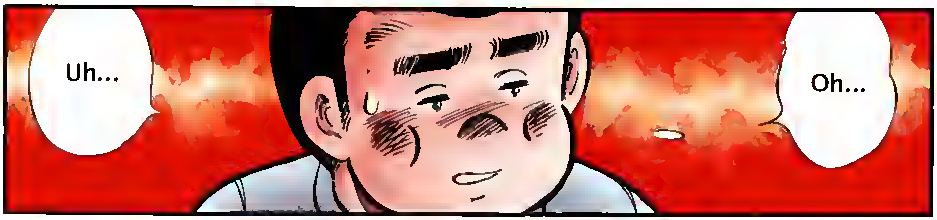
...

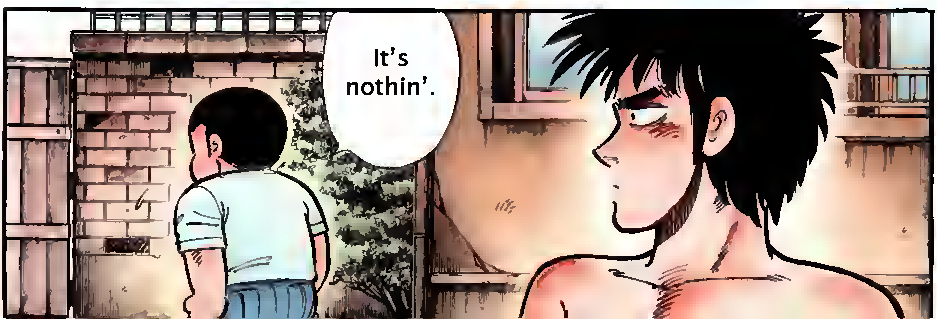
Chapter 5:
The Racing Suit

Gunma and Junko fooled around together in her bed?
Fooled around...!?

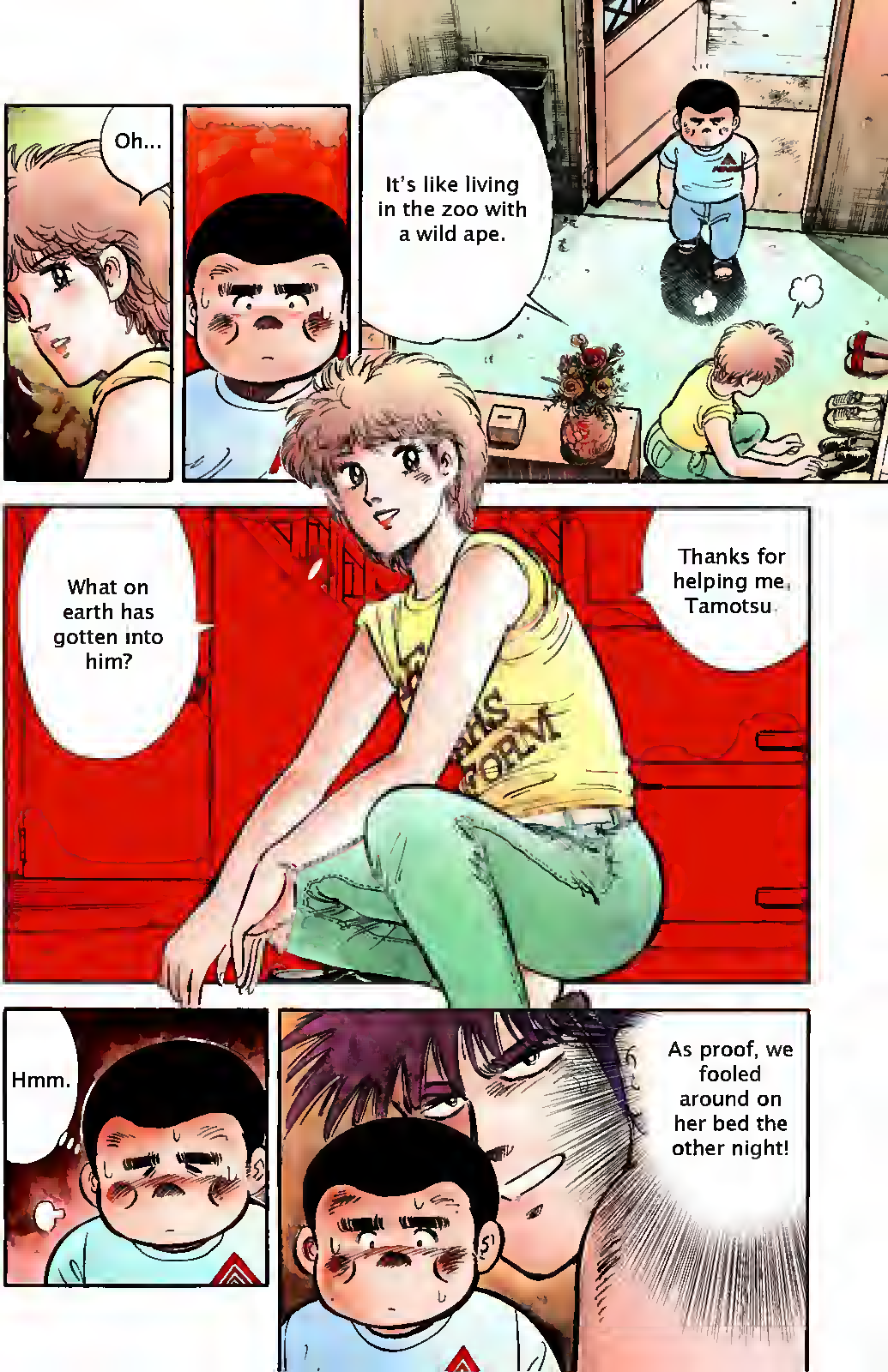
What's with the look, dude? I don't like those eyes!


Hey.
...


Uh...
Oh...

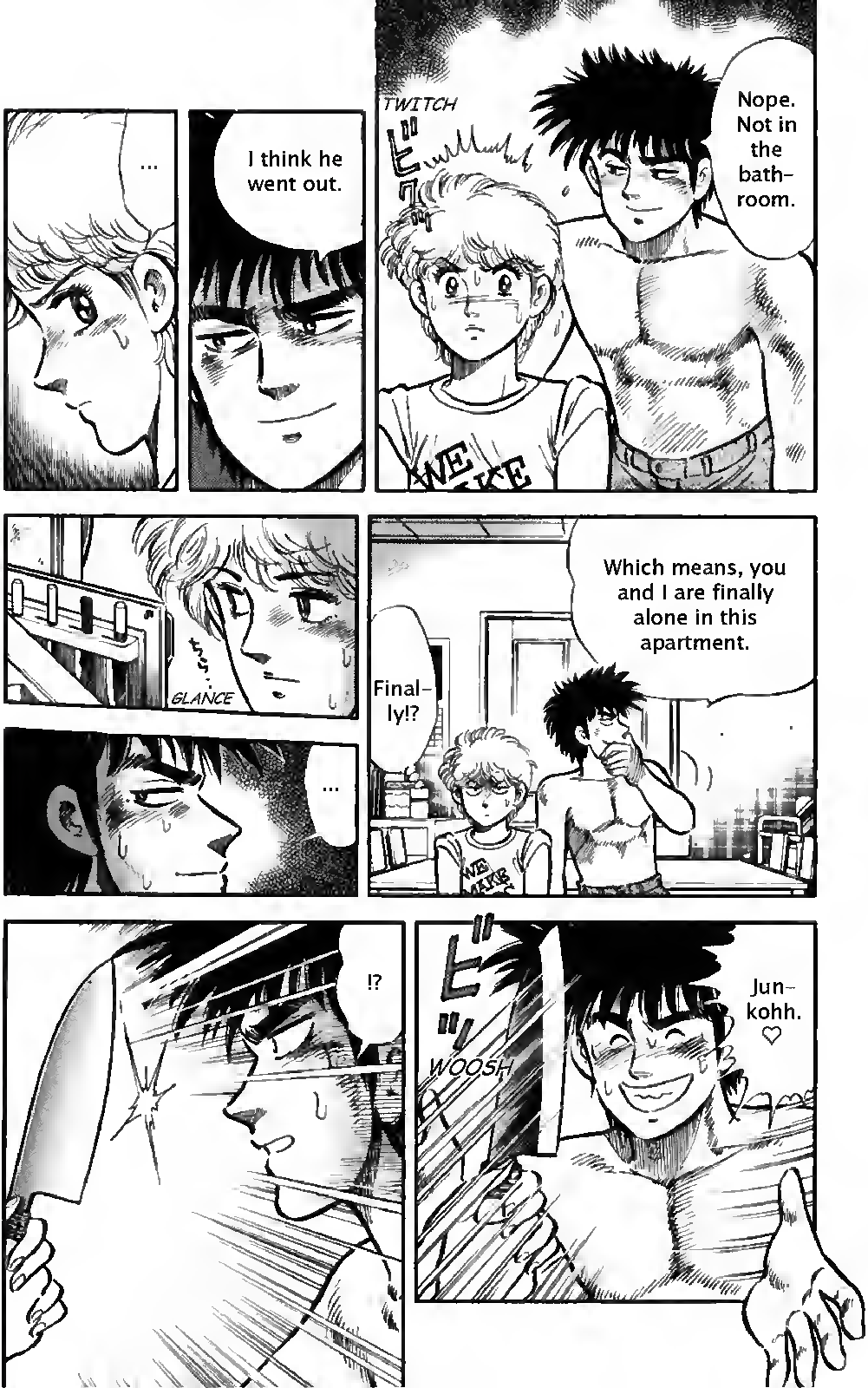

It's nothin'.

And make it fast! Then tune it up nice and perfect!
Just get me a race car!
...
I don't wanna miss any races!
Weirdo!
What's up with you?


Oh...
It's like living in the zoo with a wild ape.
What on earth has gotten into him?
Thanks for helping me, Tamotsu.
Hmm.
As proof, we fooled around on her bed the other night!

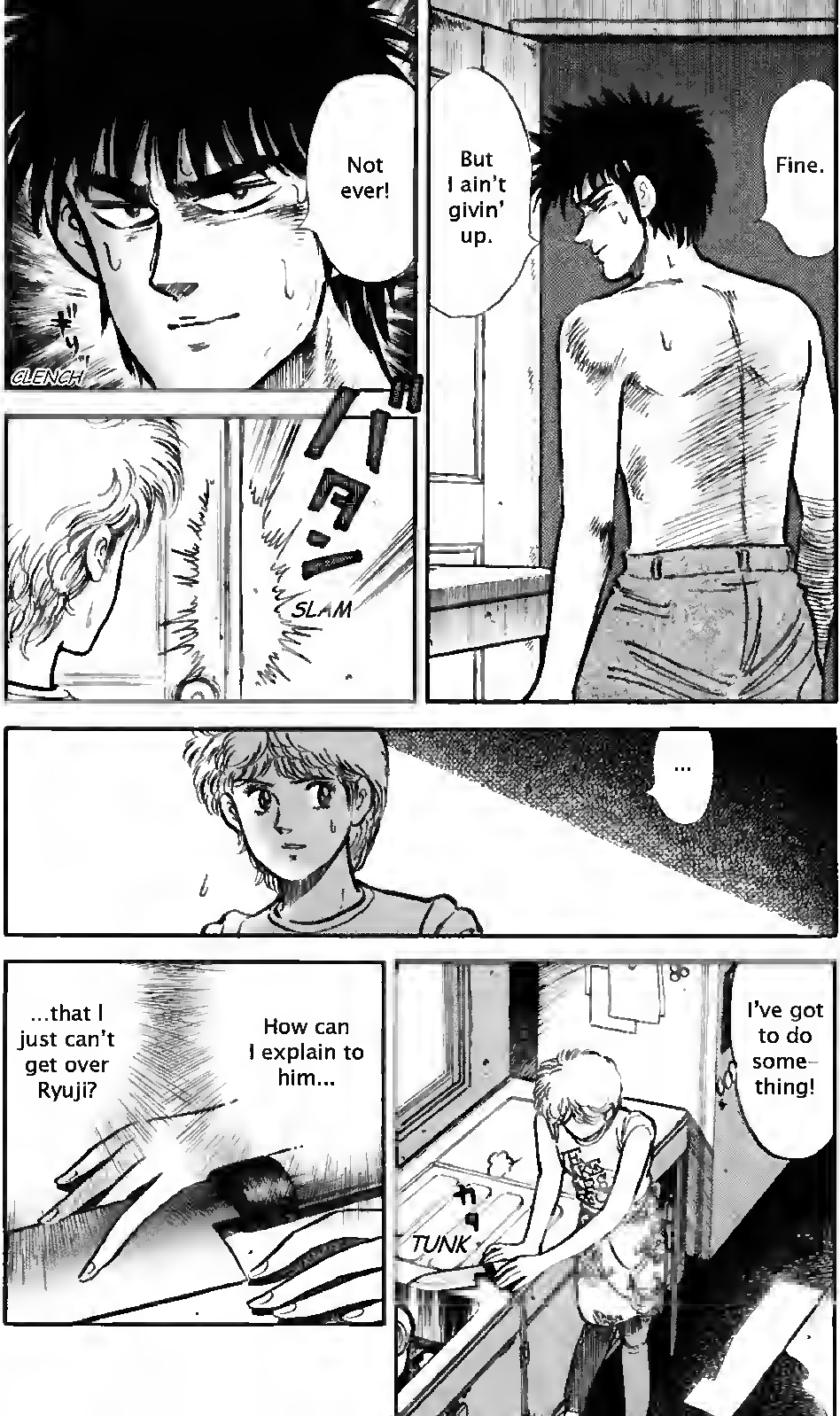
But, can you tell him I can't be involved with him?
Hey, Tamotsu. Can you tell Gunma something for me?
I'm really sorry to ask.
Tamotsu?
I mean... with every-thing that happened with Ryuji...
...I really can't... any-more...
WE MAKE CARS PERFORM
...
I promised Mr. Hijiri I'd meet with him today.
Shiseido Cosmetics
Where are you going?
Hey ...

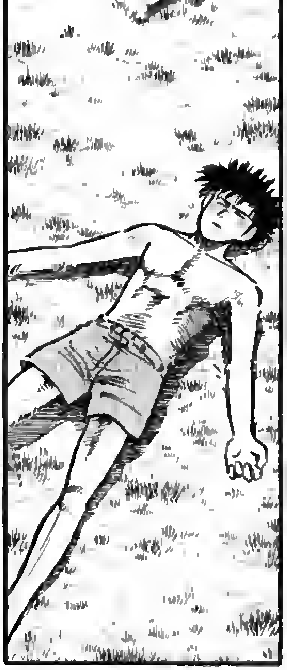
I don't believe this. Now that Tamotsu left...
...I'm alone with that beast.
SHEEEH
I hope Auntie gets back soon.
Mat-suura and Kinoshi-ta are out too.
Hey, Junko. Gimme some water.
BAM
Man oh man, never thought recovery could be so painful.
Where's Tamo-tsu?
TUNK
...
Maybe he's in the bath-room.
That's weird. He wasn't there.
GLUG
GLUG
I saw him go upstairs.
Oh... He's in his room.

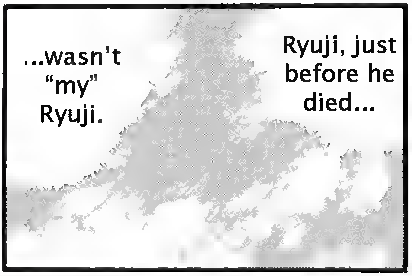

...
I think he went out.
TWITCH
Nope. Not in the bath-room.
GLANCE
...
Which means, you and I are finally alone in this apartment.
Final-ly!?
!?
WOOSH
Jun-kohh. ♡

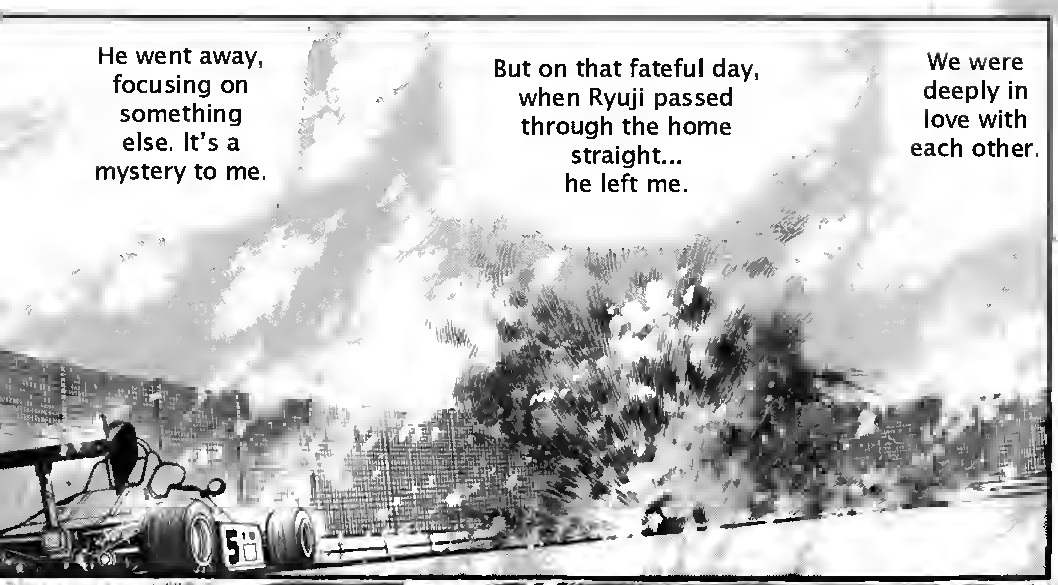
Heh ...
Don't do anything stupid.
Or I'll be forced to defend myself!
You can't scare me with that!
Ha ha ha! Stop messin' around!
I'm serious!
SHOOH
...
BUMP
...just try me!
If you think I'm lying...

I'm sorry, I don't know what got into me.
When we kissed?
What about that night?
Dammit!
BANG
So please... just forget that it ever happened.
That was my mistake.
Ever?
...fall in love with you?
Can't I...
...
It just won't work.
I'm sorry.


Not ever!
GLENCH
But I ain't givin' up.
Fine.
SLAM
...
...that I just can't get over Ryuji?
How can I explain to him...
I've got to do some-thing!
TUNK

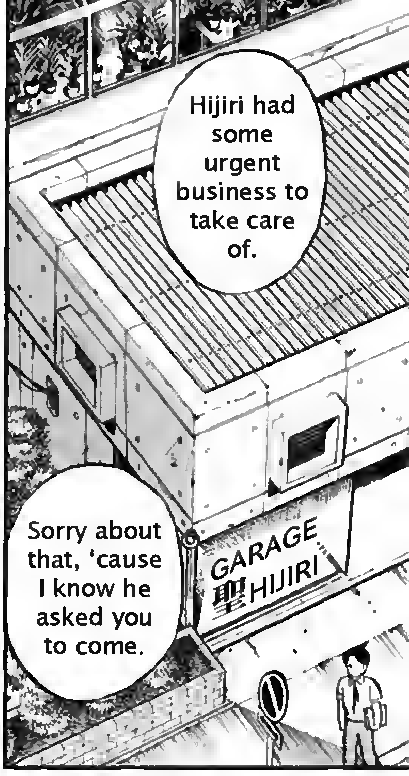


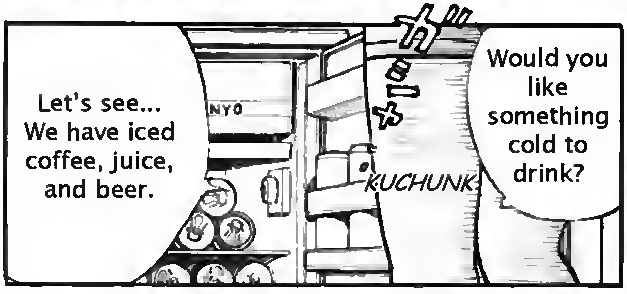

...wasn't "my" Ryuji.
Ryuji, just before he died...


He went away, focusing on something else. It's a mystery to me.
But on that fateful day, when Ryuji passed through the home straight... he left me.
We were deeply in love with each other.

...

Okay.
I'll take care of things instead.


Hijiri had some urgent business to take care of.
Sorry about that, 'cause I know he asked you to come.
GARAGE HIJIRI


Let's see... We have iced coffee, juice, and beer.
Would you like something cold to drink?
KUCHUNK

Hm?
Tamo-tsu?

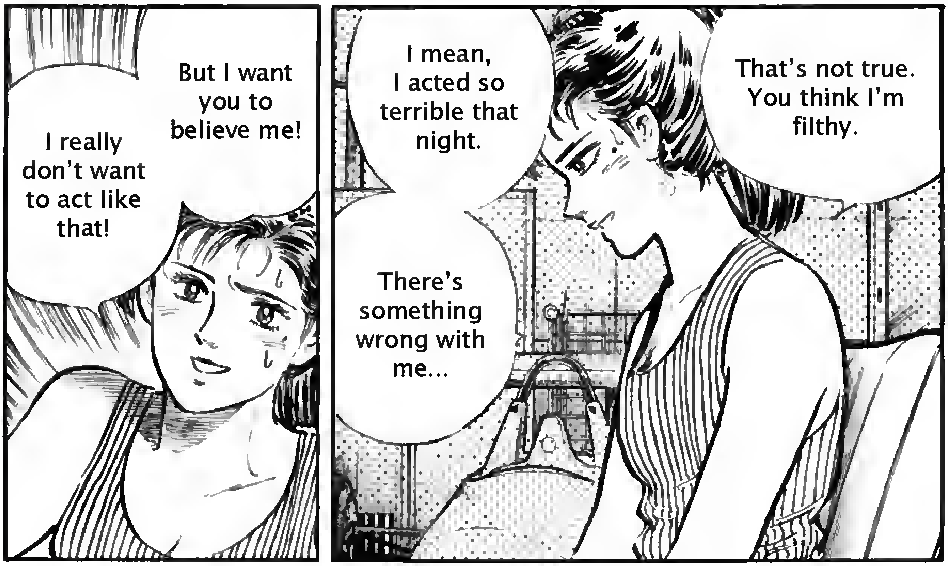
Really!?
Oh yeah. I'll have a beer.

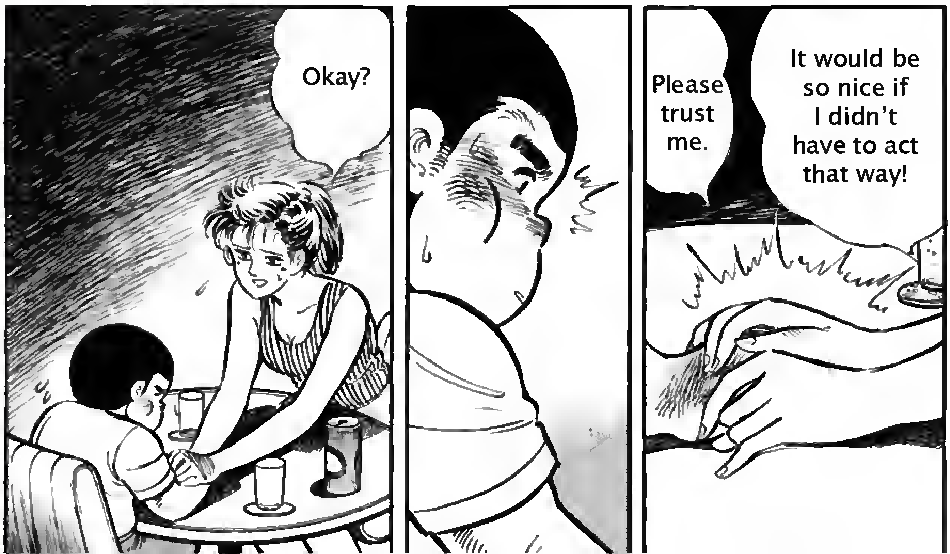
I hope I didn't offend you.
Oh my gosh, I'm sorry. You're still too young to drink, aren't you.
Heh-heh...
What'll it be?

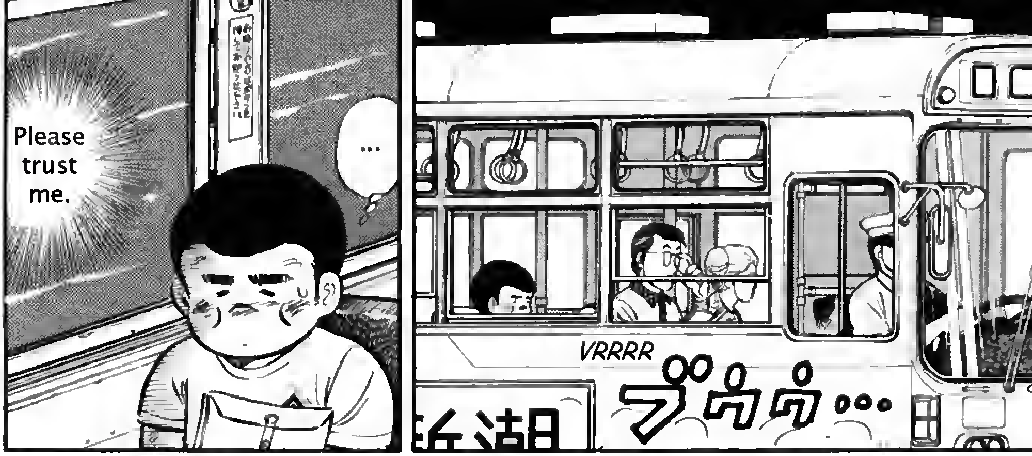
Fooled around ...
グビ GULP
グビ GULP
グビ GULP
Sure.
Can I get some more?
He wants you to read through this.
Should I open another can?
I don't know, I didn't ask. Just take it home and read it carefully.
What is it?
Nah, this is fine. What was it Mr. Hijiri wanted to see me about?

I was drunk at Hijiri's party, and did something very rude to you.
And I... I'm just...
Oh, and by the way. I never had a chance to apologize for the other night.
I'm so embarrassed.
Oh... It's fine, it's fine.
...really sorry. I hope you can forgive me.
BOW!
!
I want to be a good woman.
Tamotsu ...
I said it's fine. Don't worry about it.

Especially today. It's like, something changed, and you seem so... pure.
I think you're a good woman, Ms. Ruiko.
...you are.
You ...

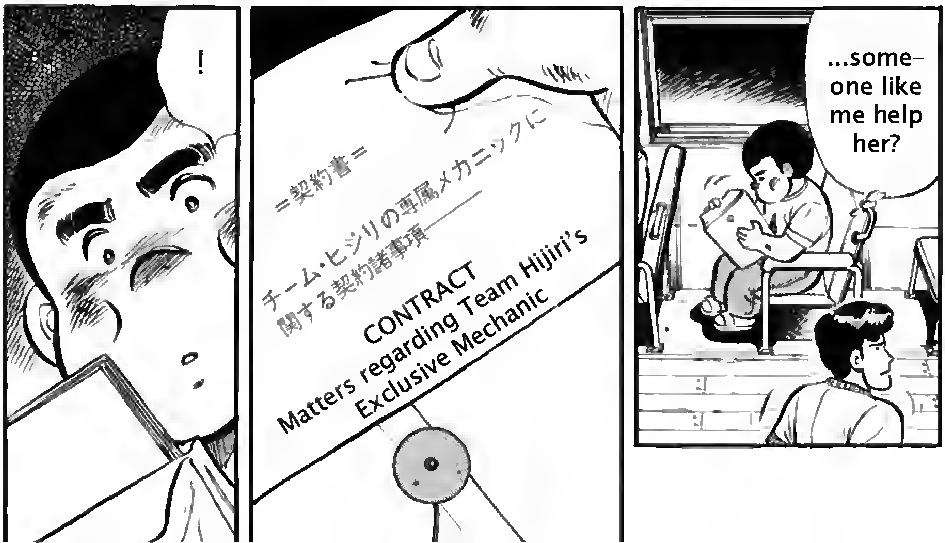

But I want you to believe me!
I really don't want to act like that!
I mean, I acted so terrible that night.
There's something wrong with me...
That's not true. You think I'm filthy.


Okay?
Please trust me.
It would be so nice if I didn't have to act that way!

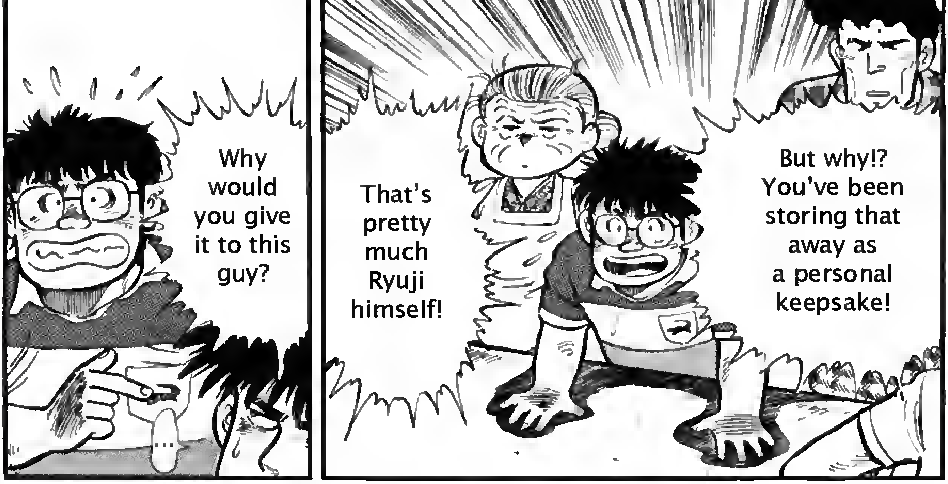

Please trust me.
...
VRRRR
プップ...

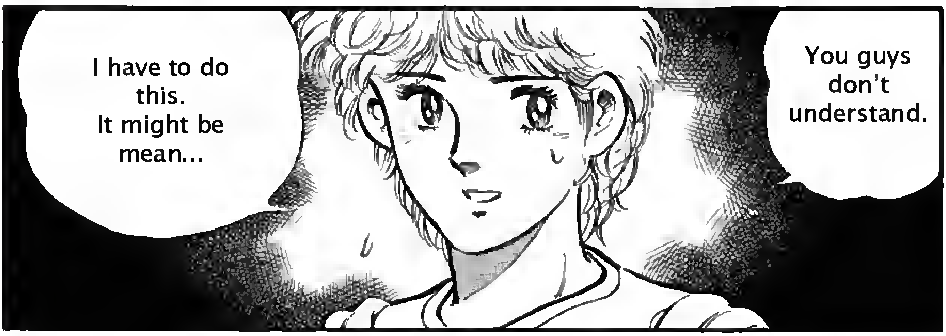
It would be so nice if I didn't have to act that way!
Don't worry about Ruiko. She's kind of a sicko.

How could...
I want to be a good woman.

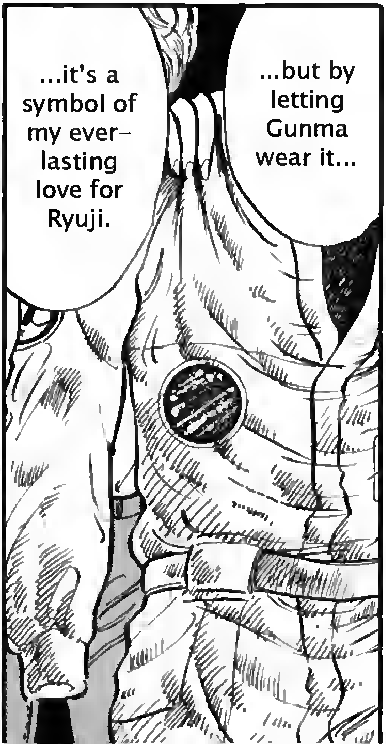

!
=契約書=
チーム・ヒジリの専属メカニックに関する契約諸事項
CONTRACT
Matters regarding Team Hijiri's Exclusive Mechanic
...someone like me help her?

Yeah, what are you thinking!?
What are you doing with that, Junko!? It's too valu-able!
...
小森荘
!
FIRESTONE
DUNLOP
MOTUL
And I want you to wear it!
This is the only racing suit I have left that Ryuji wore.


Why would you give it to this guy?
...
That's pretty much Ryuji himself!
But why!? You've been storing that away as a personal keepsake!


I have to do this. It might be mean...
You guys don't understand.

...is because I have strong feelings for Ryuji! Because I want to remember him!
The reason I'm helping you with your racing career...

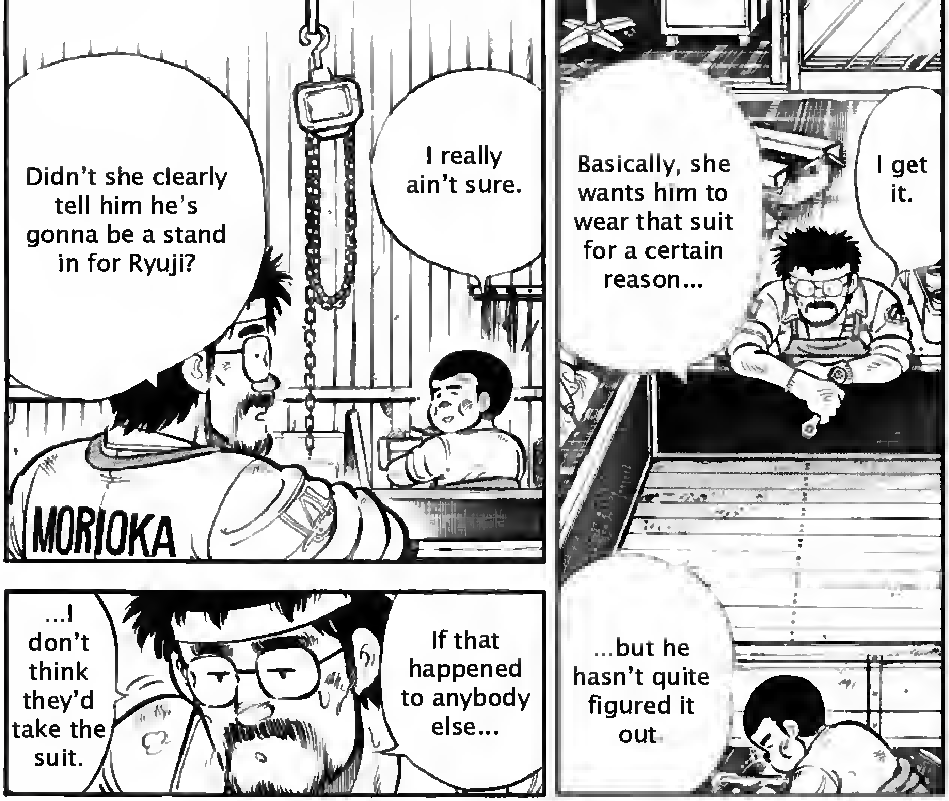

...it's a symbol of my ever-lasting love for Ryuji.
...but by letting Gunma wear it...

He'll have a special place in my heart, till the day I die!
Ryuji is the only man for me! I'll probably never think of another man for the rest of my life!
And that's the only reason I'm helping you!
So put this on for me!
FIREDOG
DUNLOP
MOTUL

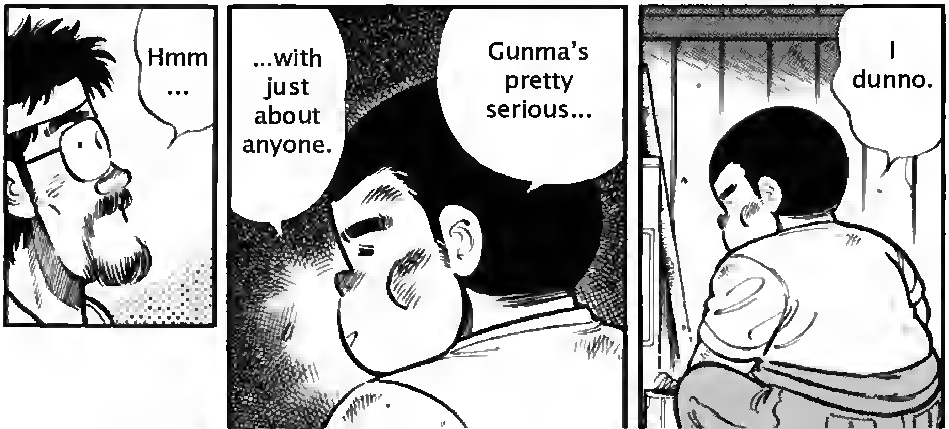
You might think I'm cruel for doing this...
...but it's how I really feel!
If you don't like it, I'm off the team!
And I'm leaving this apartment!
...

# Chapter 6: Because They Have To

So what did Gunma do?
CLANG
Morioka
CHIRR
CHIRR
CHIRR
Did he turn down the racing suit...
...that belonged to Junko's dead lover?
Ow!
CRASH
THUMP
He really took it, huh?
Wow.
Like he appre-ciates it.
Yeah, and he seemed really happy about it.
Geez, where do I start back here?
CLANG
He thought about it, but ended up accepting.


Didn't she clearly tell him he's gonna be a stand in for Ryuji?
I really ain't sure.
MORIOKA
Basically, she wants him to wear that suit for a certain reason...
I get it.
...but he hasn't quite figured it out
...I don't think they'd take the suit.
If that happened to anybody else...

Is Gunma seriously in love with Junko?
Hmm ...
But Gunma accepted it with a smile.

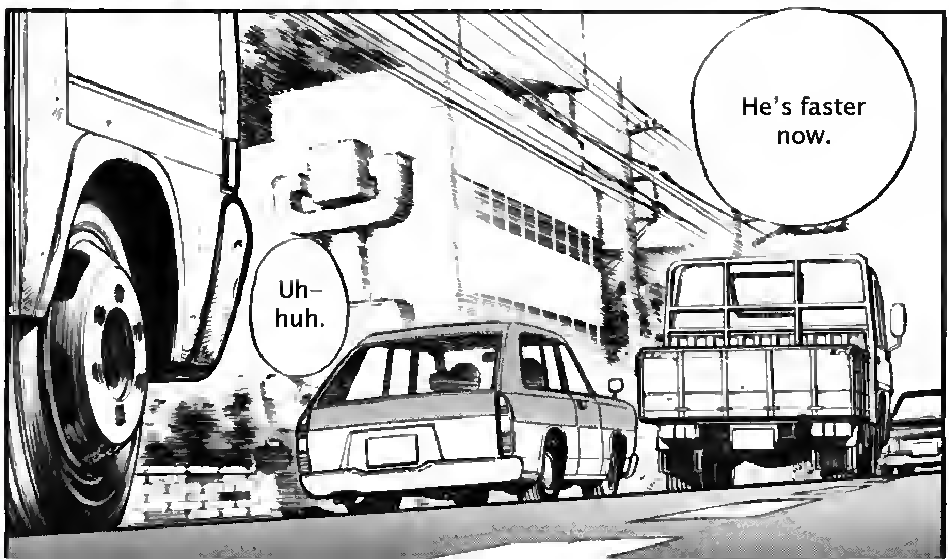

Hmm ...
...with just about anyone.
Gunma's pretty serious...
I dunno.

How the hell am I supposed to get this organized!?
BAM
CRASH
BANG
CLANG
I've had it with all this junk!
BANG
CRASH
SLAM
THUNK
Oh yeah, I forgot. Cleaning up's not in your vocabulary.
HA HA HA
Boss!
How do you expect me to move around all this junk when ya'll haven't even found me a race car yet!?
Just thought a little exercise would help you recover.
Whoa, whoa... Take it easy.
MORIA MOTORS
What?
Tamotsu!
But that's not an easy find.
Of course... A nice sturdy one at a good price.
You'll get me a race car, right? Right!?

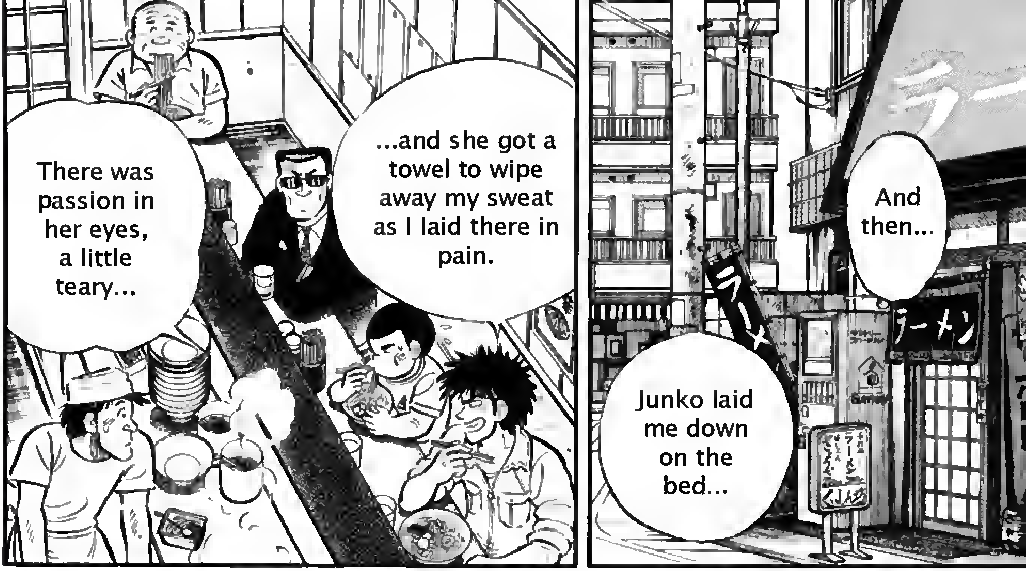
But the money ...
Sure I do.
SLAP
Do you really even care?
It's about time for me to enter the next race, ain't it?
So listen up!
If I keep winnin' races we'll get all the money we need!
That's all you ever talk about! Money! Money! Money!
Let's go for a ride!
Okay.
I'm fully charged and ready to go!
I wanna race now! Got it!?

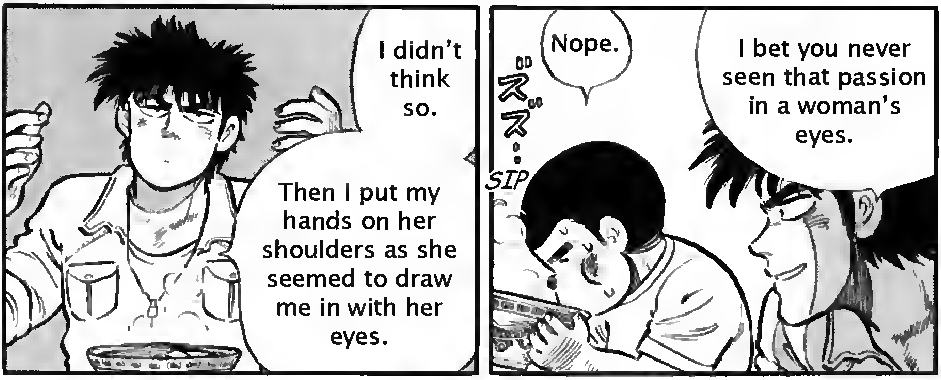
VRRRRRRRRR
I gotta deliver this now that it's repaired.

You know what?
Tsh.
Why the hell would I!?
Feelin' a little better?

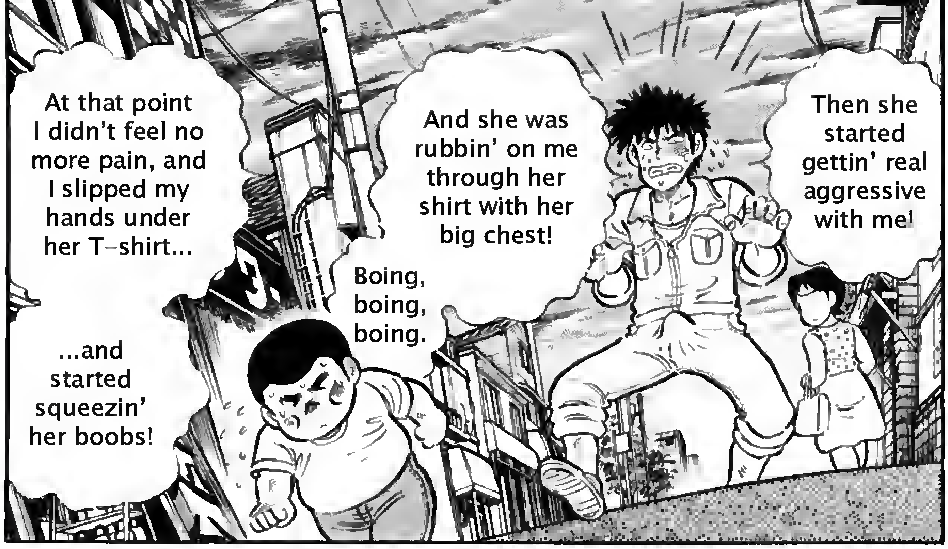

He's faster now.
Uh–huh.

VOOOOOH
With quick judg-ment.
Look at him zip around like a ninja.
VOOOOOH
And he doesn't drive like a maniac anymore.
Actually, he's pretty smooth.
He's a genius when it comes to drivin'.
Fast guys drive fast no matter what vehicle they're in.
!?
There's no such thing as a genius.
...
They have a reason.
I think maybe, the guys who drive fast do it because they have to.
But none of them were geniuses.
I've seen my share of fast drivers through the years.

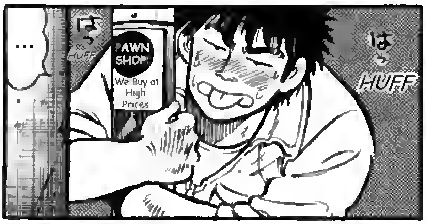

There was passion in her eyes, a little teary...
...and she got a towel to wipe away my sweat as I laid there in pain.
And then...
ラーメン
Junko laid me down on the bed...

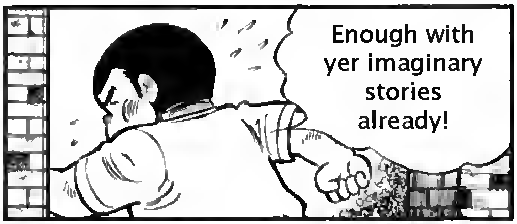

I didn't think so.
Then I put my hands on her shoulders as she seemed to draw me in with her eyes.
Nope.
I bet you never seen that passion in a woman's eyes.
ズズ・・・
SIP

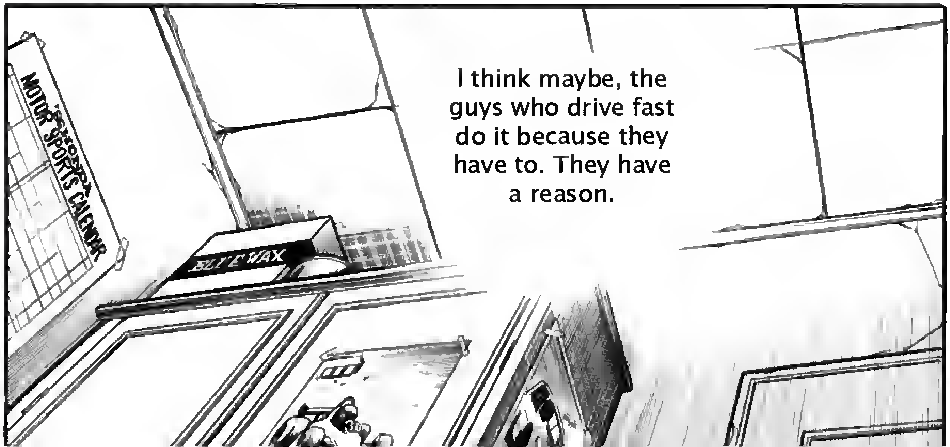
She stuck her tongue in my mouth! It was thin and flexible, and moved around a lot!
Kinda like this.
FLUP
You won't believe what happened next.
Gunma, yer noodles are gettin' soggy.
Then her lips touched mine.


At that point I didn't feel no more pain, and I slipped my hands under her T-shirt...
...and started squeezin' her boobs!
Boing, boing, boing.
And she was rubbin' on me through her shirt with her big chest!
Then she started gettin' real aggressive with me!

Gunma!
Ohhhh Gunma... Don't stop... I'm... getting so wet.
Then Junko let out this passionate groan.


...
PAWN SHOP
We Buy at High Prices
は
HUFF


Enough with yer imaginary stories already!

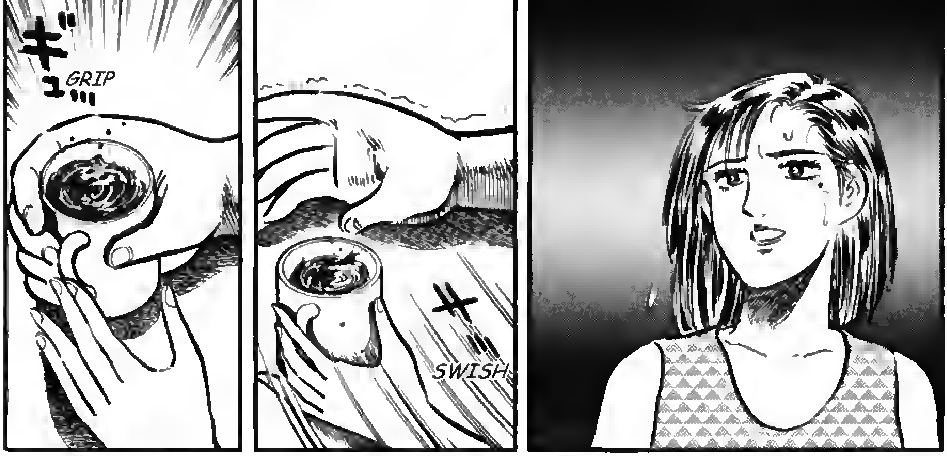

I think maybe, the guys who drive fast do it because they have to. They have a reason.
MOTOR SPORTS CALENDAR
SURF WAX

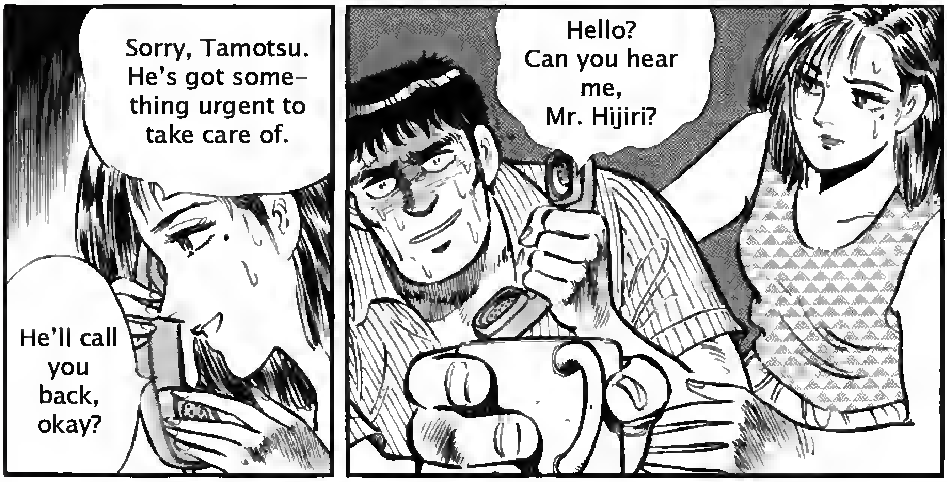
And it's something a woman would never understand.
Fast drivers have something deep down inside that makes them push down on that accelerator.
This is what separates racing from other sports.
That's why Junko...
Better make that call.
Oh yeah.
I got the document from Ms. Ruiko.
And after thinkin' about it I...
It's Tamotsu.
Hello. Mr. Hijiri?

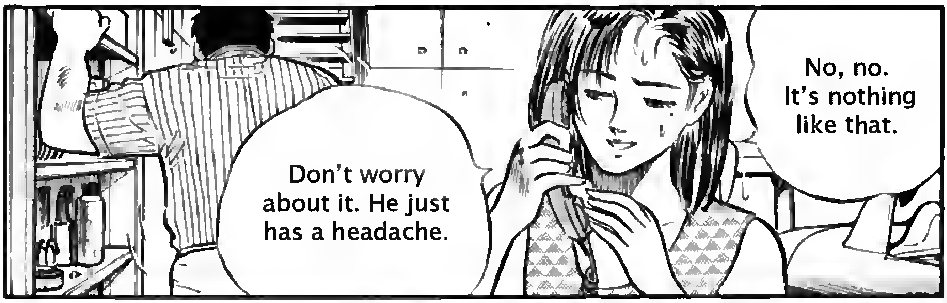
Hello?
Um... Can you hear me?

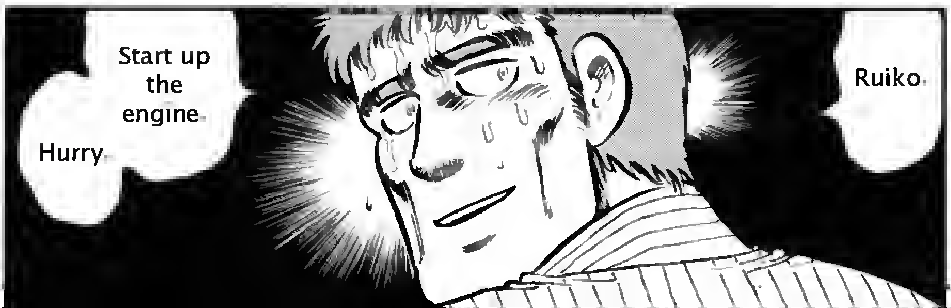
Tell me what you think we should...
Just trying to get my coffee.
Hey, sorry about that.

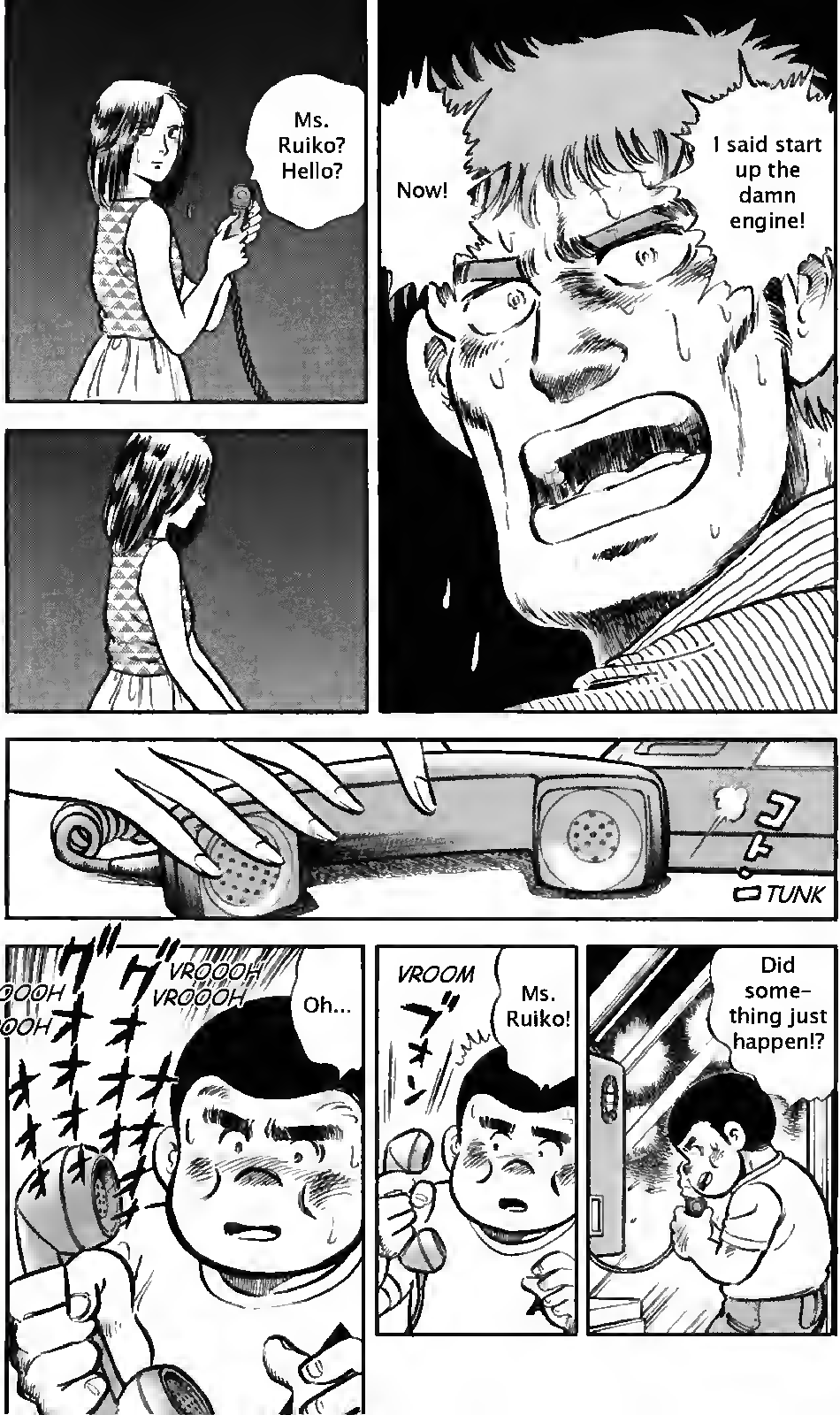
...I wanna try how far I can go, with Gunma...
Well, I really think that...
カチャ
KACHUK
...


GRIP
SWISH


Sorry, Tamotsu. He's got something urgent to take care of.
He'll call you back, okay?
Hello? Can you hear me, Mr. Hijiri?

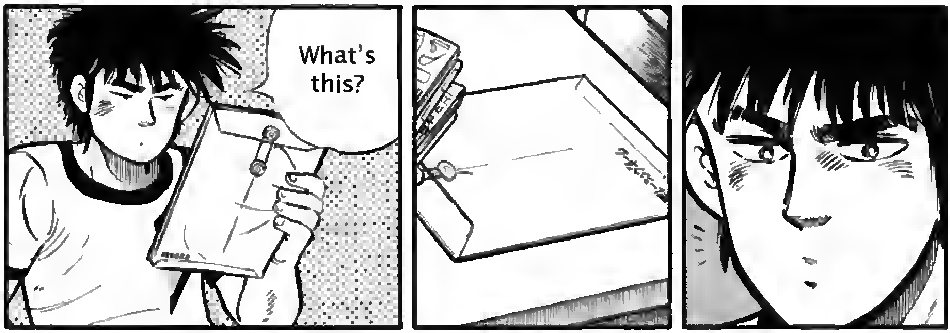

Don't worry about it. He just has a headache.
No, no. It's nothing like that.

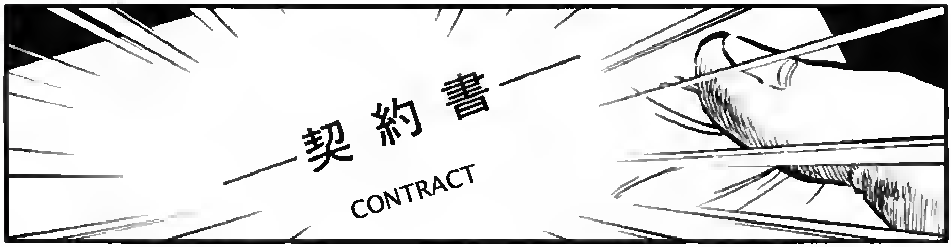

Start up the engine
Hurry
Ruiko

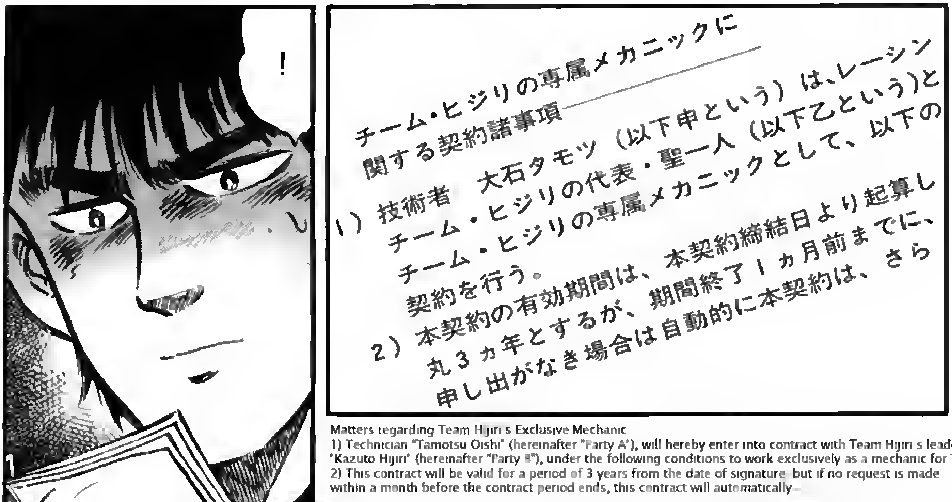

Ms. Ruiko? Hello?
Now!
I said start up the damn engine!
コトッ
TUNK
VROOOH VROOOH
ヴォオオオオオオオオ
VROOOH VROOOH
Oh...
VROOM
ブォン
Ms. Ruiko!
Did some-thing just happen!?

Knock knock, Ta-motsu.
Still excited after hearin' my story?
Hey!
I brought you a little present!
Boo!
KACHUK
I know you ain't got these, so you're lucky I'm in a giving mood!
I'm comin' in! Get ready!
Heh heh!
This is a sweet one. I must've used it 10 times!
Where is he?
Huh?

Guess I'll just leave these here.
THUMP
But he ain't got no money.
Did my story get him so excited that he went out to do somethin' perverted?



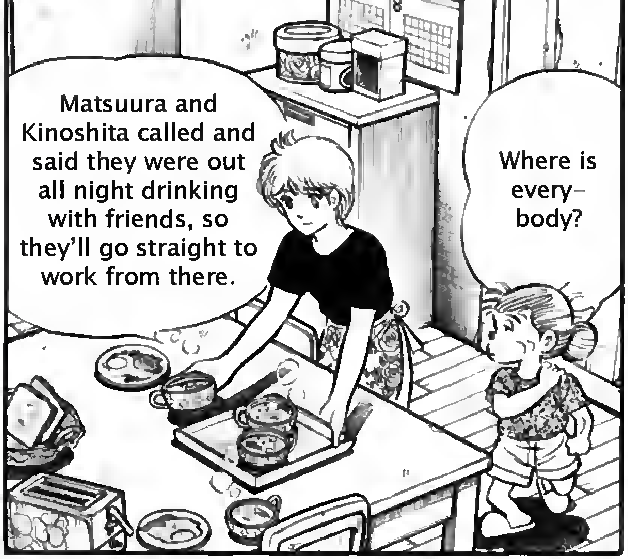

Matters regarding Team Hijiri's Exclusive Mechanic
1) Technician "Tamotsu Oishi" (hereinafter "Party A"), will hereby enter into contract with Team Hijiri's leader "Kazuto Hijiri" (hereinafter "Party B"), under the following conditions to work exclusively as a mechanic for Team Hijiri.
2) This contract will be valid for a period of 3 years from the date of signature, but if no request is made within a month before the contract period ends, this contract will automatically—

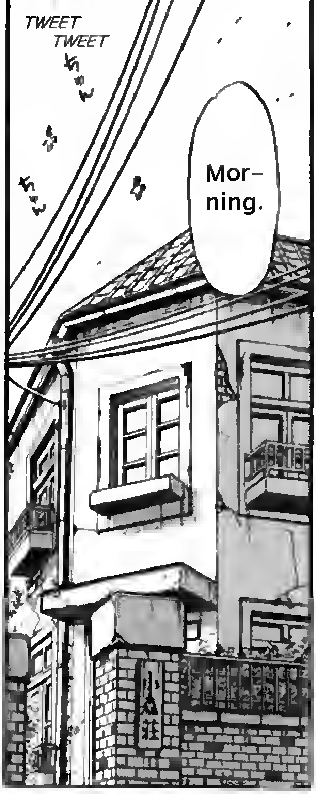
BRUH
BRUH
BRUH
BRUH
BRUH
BRUH
BRUH
BRUH
BRUH
BRUH
BRUH
BRUH
BRUH
BRUH
BRUH
BRUH
Not this.
Oh no.
BRUH
BRUH
BRUH
BRUH
BRUH

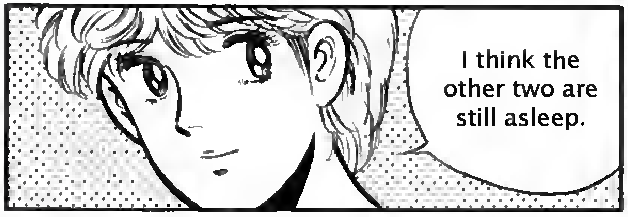
BRUH
BRUH
BRUH
BRUH
BRUH
BRUH
How you'd be so happy if you don't gotta do this.
What about what you told me, Ms. Ruiko?
BRUH
BRUH
BRUH
BRUH
BRUH
GRIP
So... Why?

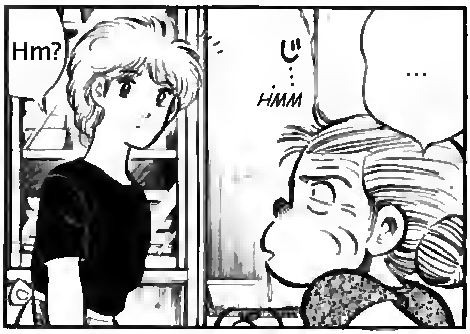
!?
TWITCH
BRUH
Help me!
BRUH
BRUH
BRUH
BRUH
BRUH
Did she just...?
...

# Chapter 7: Business Back Home


Matsuura and Kinoshita called and said they were out all night drinking with friends, so they'll go straight to work from there.
Where is every-body?


TWEET TWEET
Mor-ning.

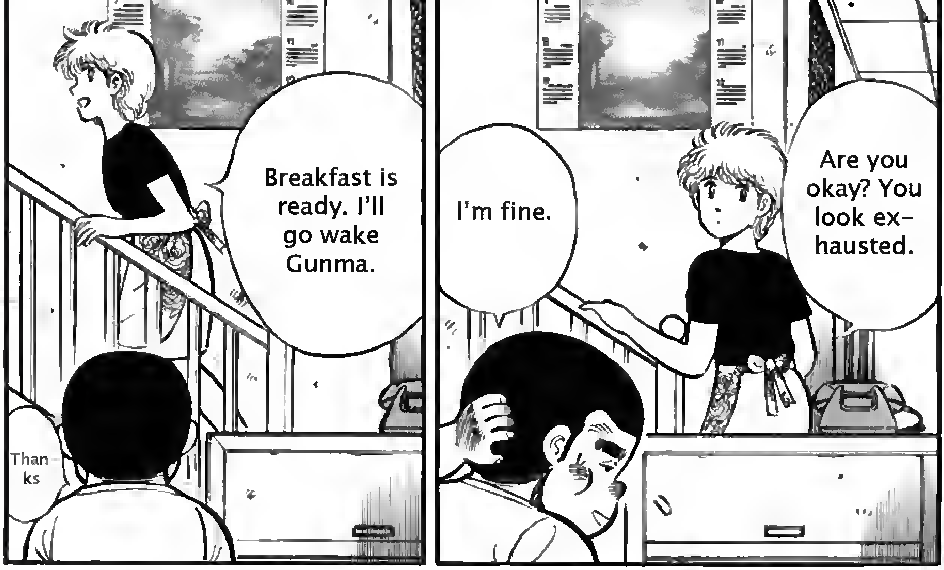

I think the other two are still asleep.

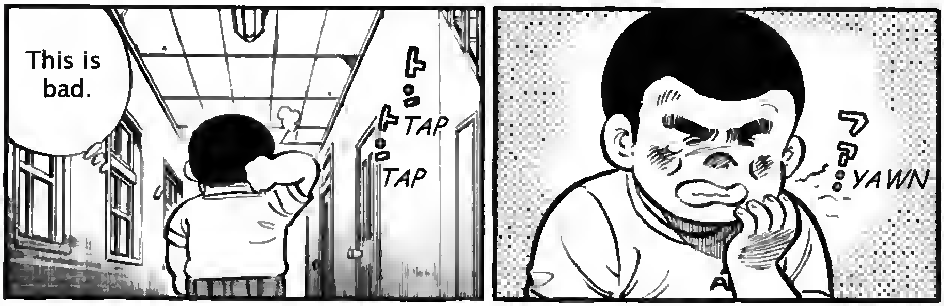

Hm?
HMM
…

What's wrong, Auntie?

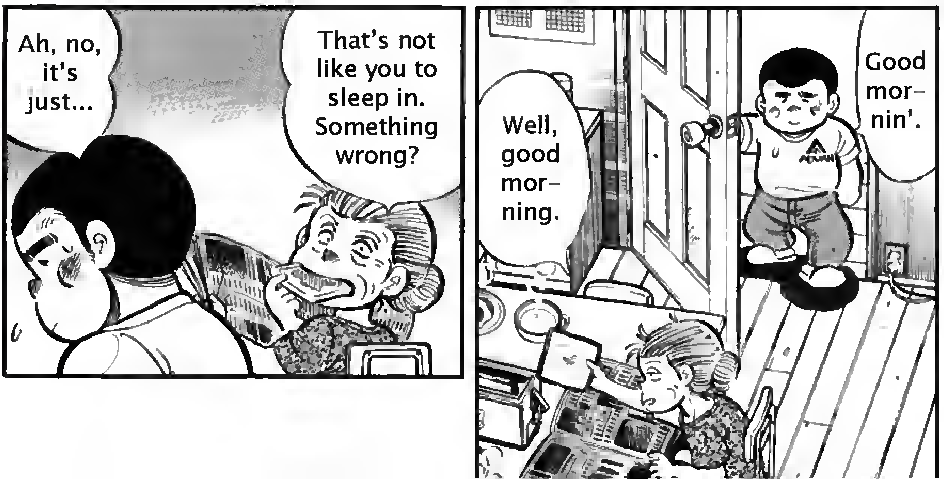
That's true. I'll go wake them up.
That's odd. I mean it's normal for Gunma, but not Tamotsu.

You're acting strange.
...it's no-thing.
Oh...
...
...but Junko seems to be getting more beautiful every day.
Maybe it's just be-cause I'm getting old...
...
YAWN
KACHUK
Oh my gosh, were you out all night?
Nope, just had some-thing urgent to take care of.
Oh.
Hello.
KACHUK
!
Huh?


Breakfast is ready. I'll go wake Gunma.
Thanks
I'm fine.
Are you okay? You look exhausted.


This is bad.
TAP
TAP
YAWN

Help me!

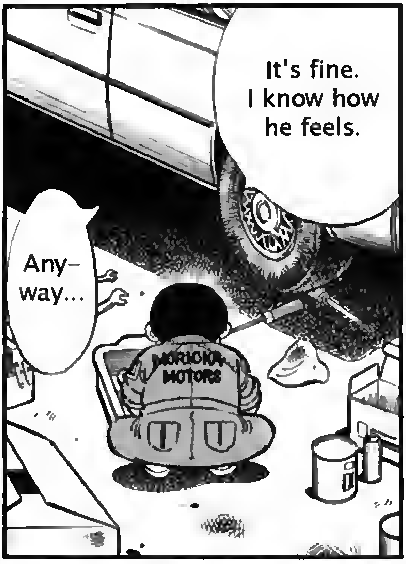

Ah, no, it's just...
That's not like you to sleep in. Something wrong?
Well, good morning.
Good mornin'.

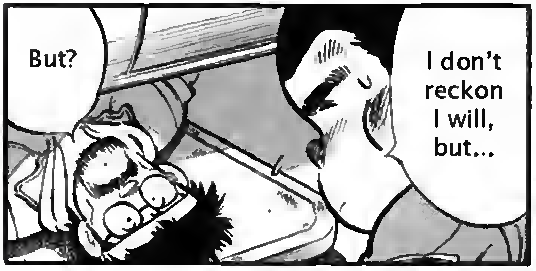
What hap-pened?
No, I was uh...
Wasn't he with you?
That's odd.
He's not in his room, or any-where.
Worried about him?
Weird.
But he always comes back in time for breakfast.
You never know with Gunma.
Maybe he went out to train early this morning.
I'll go check.
Nothing.
Huh?

カチャ
KACHUK
Did he mess with this contract?
This is Gunma's.
Hey.
Wait.
Geez!
2.3日中に
ぜったい金を工面して
くっからうらぎるんじゃねーぞタモツ!!
CRICK
CRACK
I'll be out getting money for a few days, so don't betray me Tamotsu!

I'm sorry about all this drama.
Yer guess is as good as mine.
DUNLOP
Where'd Gunma take off to?

...I guess you're not gonna sign that contract, right?
CHEENG

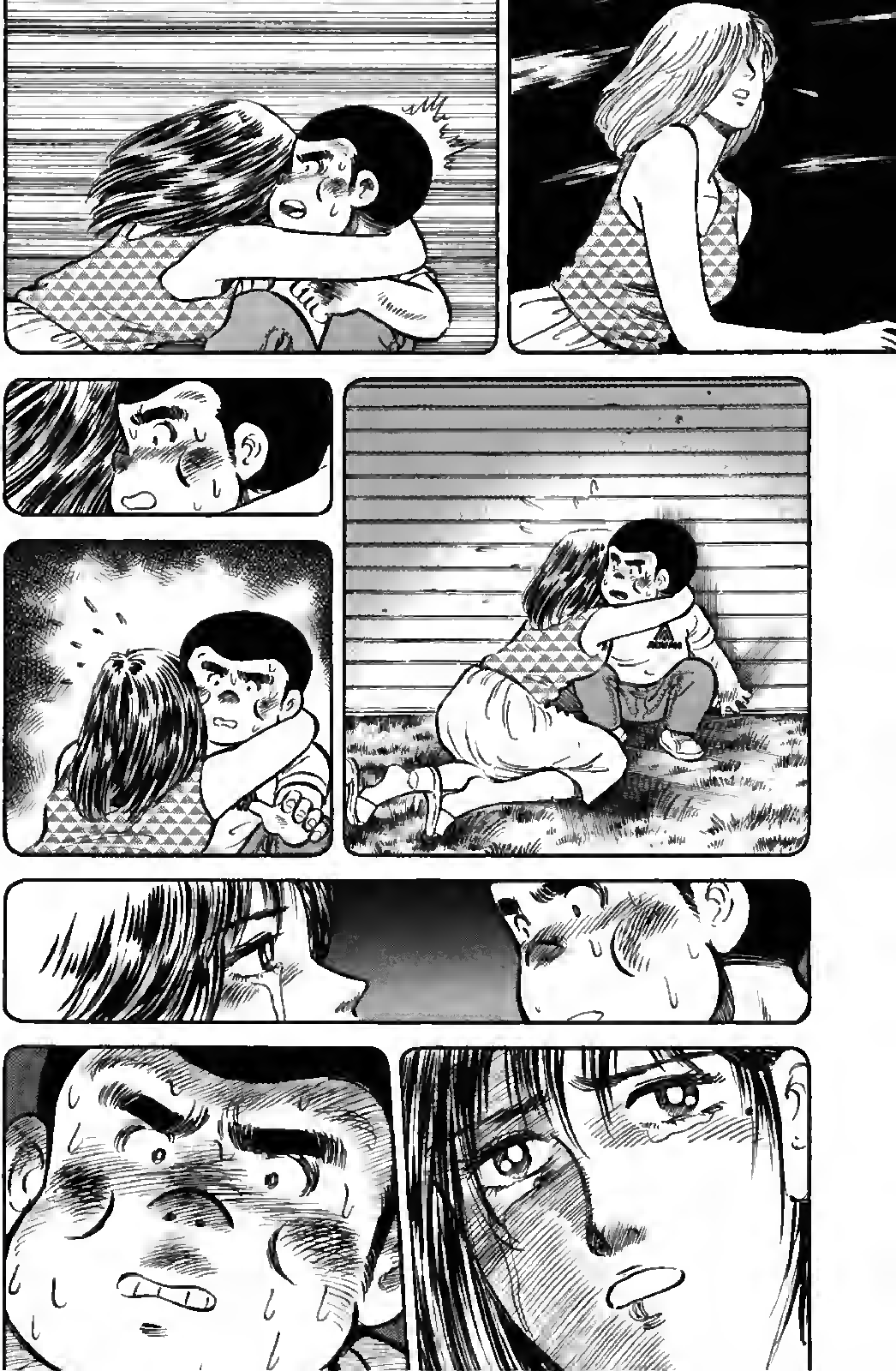

It's fine. I know how he feels.
Any-way...
MORICKA MOTORS


But?
I don't reckon I will, but...

Help me!
But...

ADVAN

KUCHANK
カチャ
...
SQUEAK
キ…



Help me!

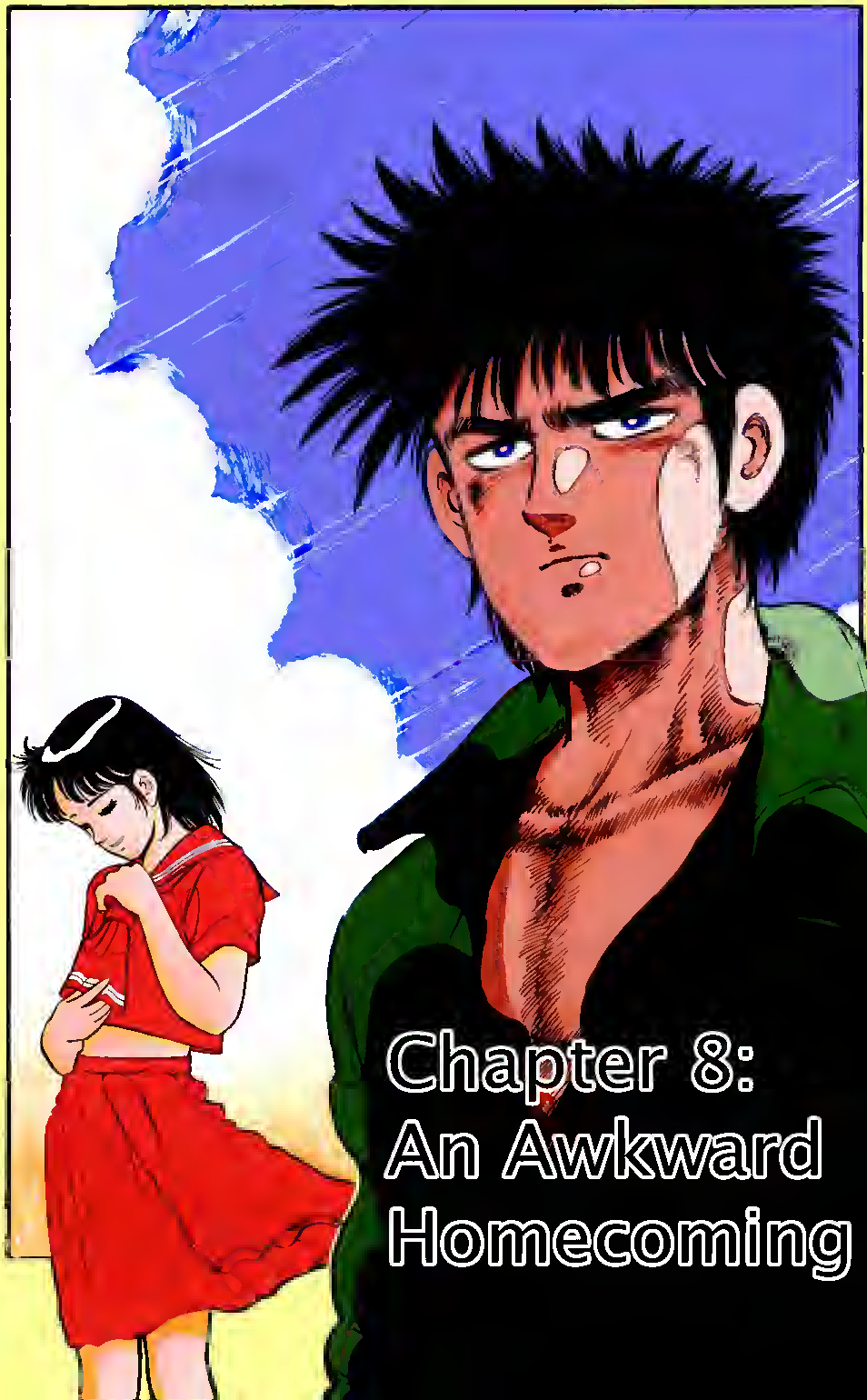
Mr. Mori-oka...
Mm-hm?
I wanted to ask you about what you said yesterday.
Like, "there's no such thing as a genius." And, "guys who drive fast do it because they have to."
POUND
I guess ...
...I'm not sure what it means.
POUND
...
Right, right.
Take a singer for example.
He sings for a living, but he doesn't sing because he's got talent.
He sings to survive.
Singing is his life.
Regardless of whether or not he's a success.
PUFF
PUFF
MORIOKA MOTORS
Basically, for a man to live his own life...
...talent just won't cut it.

And that's it.
They drive for survival.
It's the same thing with fast drivers.
MORIOKA MOTORS
rai
...
Sounds tempting.
Anyway, Hijiri's going for F3, is he?
Where in the world did that kid go?

Get out here, walk straight ahead for about 30 minutes, and you'll be in Akagi Village.
CHIRR
CHIRR
CHIRR
I'm gonna hang a right just up ahead.
石澤運輸
Wake up, kid!
You probably oughta get out here.
CHIRR
CHIRR
CHIRR
Well, it's just up ahead.
A 30-minute walk'll get you to Akagi Village.
You slept most the way.
Sheesh, we're here already?
Wow.
...right down the street.
Just ...
URGH
What're you... I'm fine!
Yeah, gimme the wheel! I'll drive from here!
Like I said, I'm about to turn right at the...
I'll take you there!
Okay, okay!
You know you wanna rest.
Come on.
I'll take the wheel if you're tired.

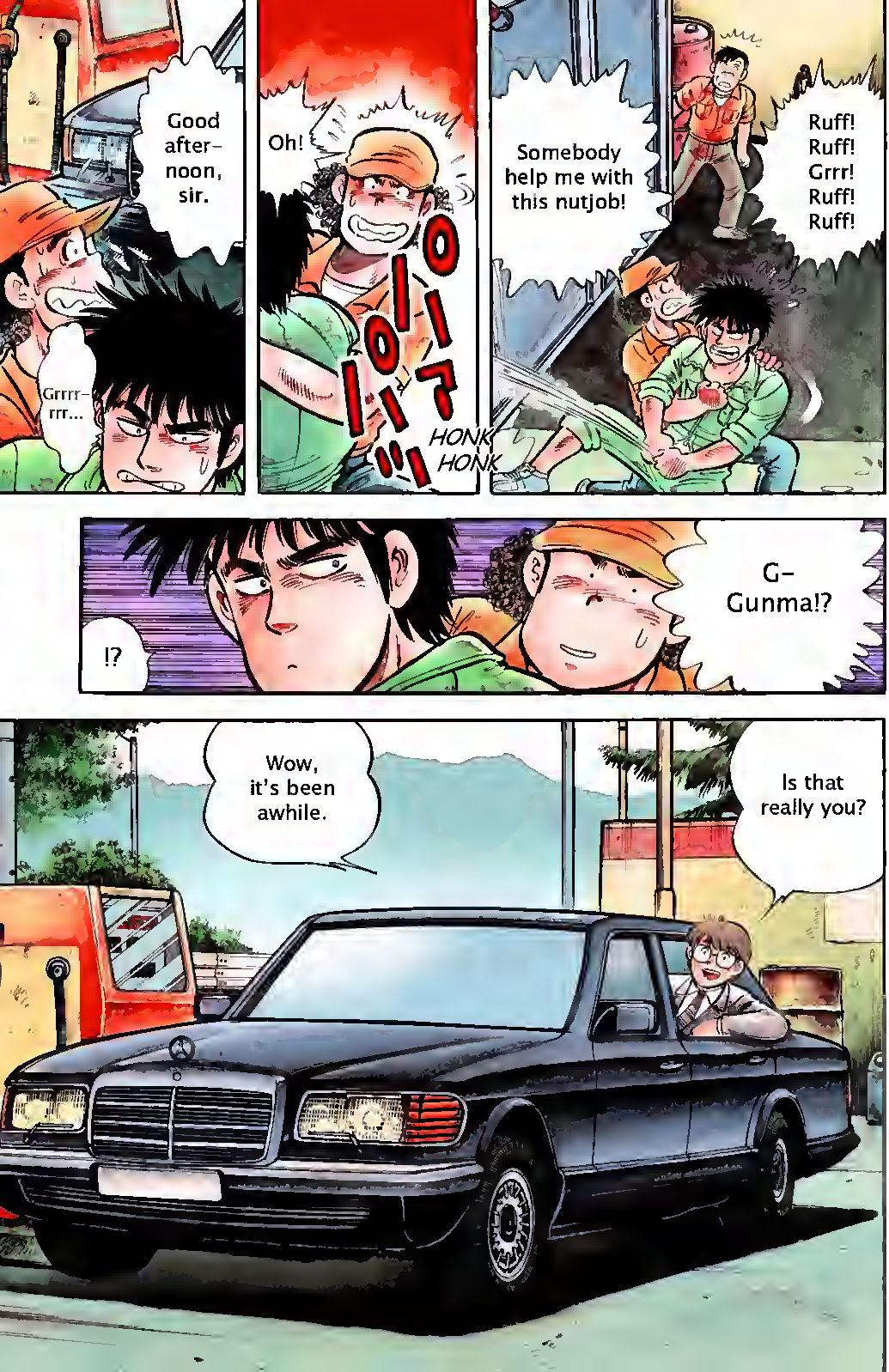
Stop here. I gotta pee!
VROOM
You're the most aggressive hitchhiker I've ever met!
A leader with back-bone.
Independent Soichiro Akagi
!
You better not leave without me!
VROOH
You're nuts!
VRRR
...
What's up, Pops...
Independent Soichiro Akagi

A leader with backbone
骨のある政治を
無所属
赤木総一郎
Independent
Soichiro Akagi
It's been a year!
カナ CHIRR
カナ CHIRR
カナ CHIRR'
カナ CHIRR
カナ CHIRR

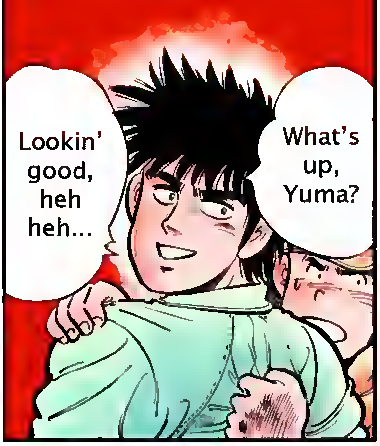

Chapter 8:
An Awkward
Homecoming

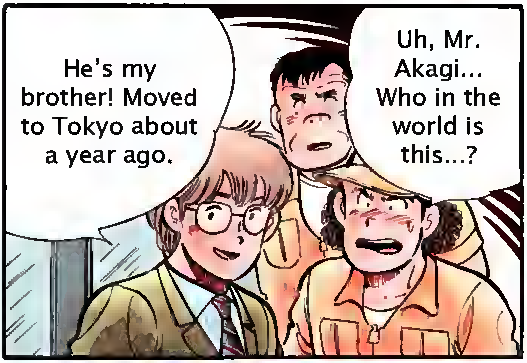
CHIRR
CHIRR
CHIRR
CHIRR
CHIRR
CHIRR
CHIRR
CHIRR
出光興産赤木給油所
Hey!
PISSSSSSS
What are you doing!?
CHIRR
CHIRR
CHIRR
CHIRR
CHIRR

SPLAT
SPLAT
SPLAT
無所属
赤木綾一郎
PISSSSS
SPLAT
RUFF
R...
Ruff?
TREMBLE
Stop actin' like an animal!
Are you outta your mind!?
PISSSSS


Good after-noon, sir.
Grrrr-rrr...
Oh!
HONK! HONK
Somebody help me with this nutjob!
Ruff! Ruff! Grrr! Ruff! Ruff!
!?
G-Gunma!?
Wow, it's been awhile.
Is that really you?

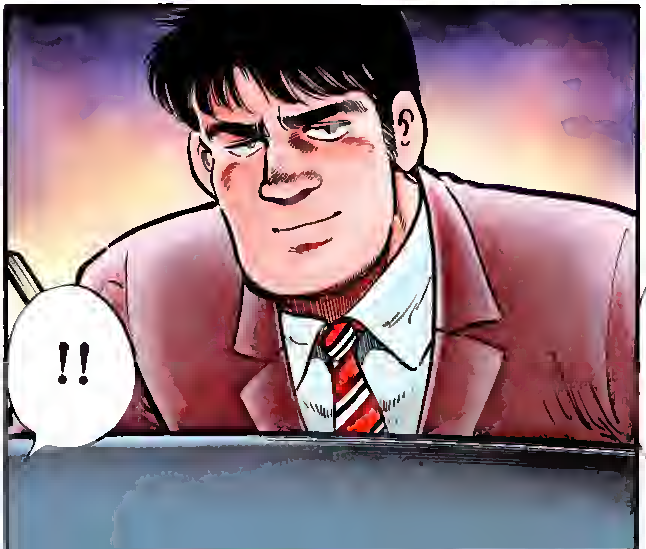
KACHUNK
カチャ
What are you doing here?
So are you!


What's up, Yuma?
Lookin' good, heh heh...


Uh, Mr. Akagi... Who in the world is this...?
He's my brother! Moved to Tokyo about a year ago.

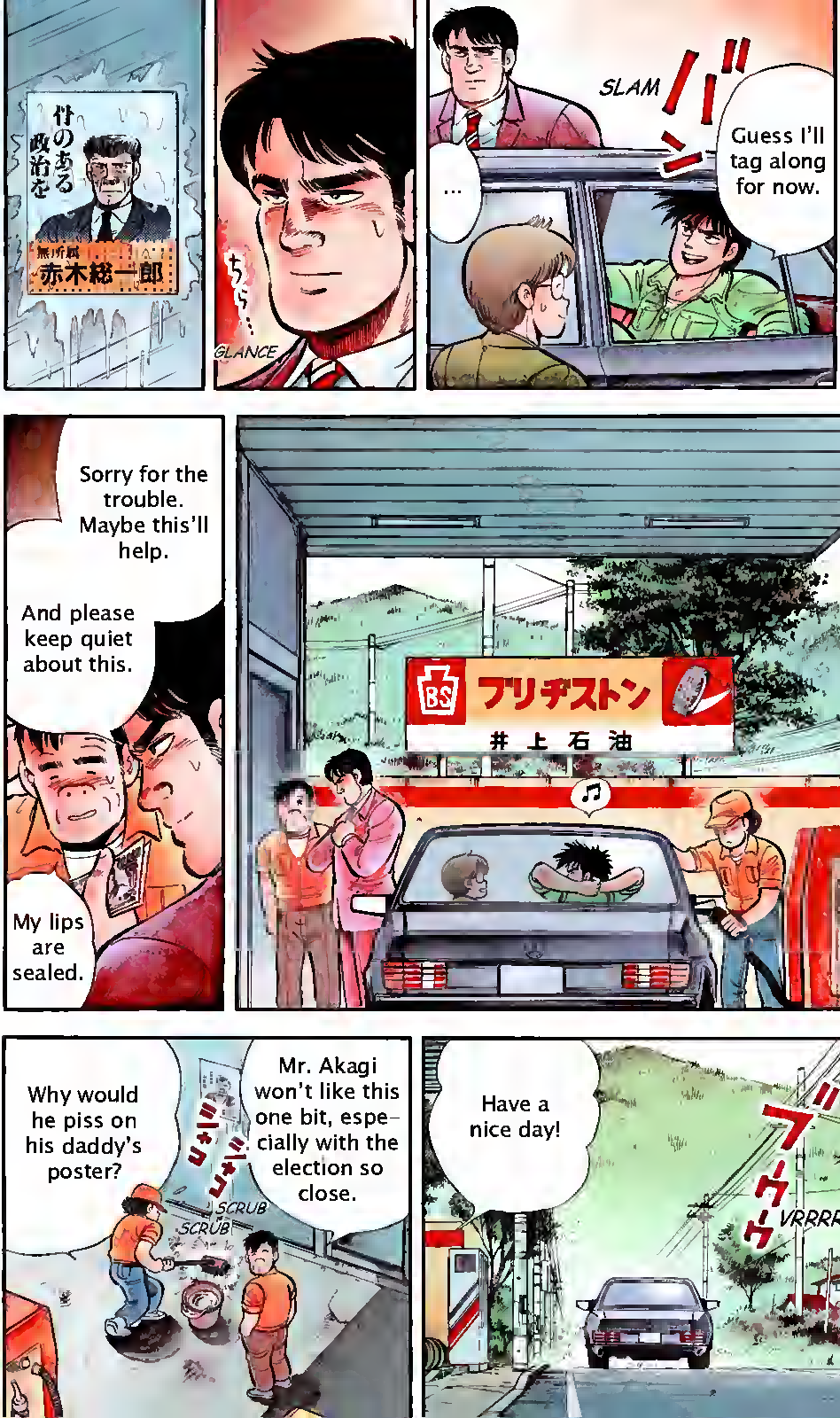
Just got a little business in the area.
You should've called so we could pick you up.

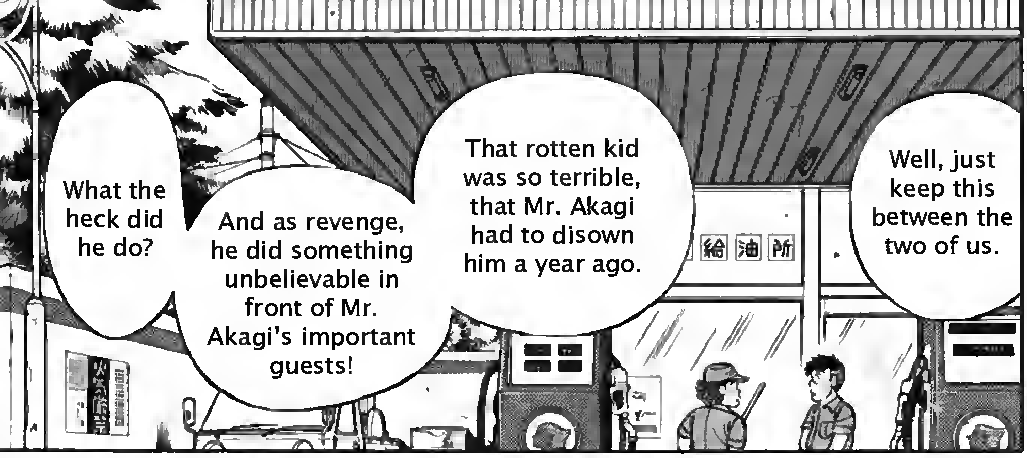
You never heard since yer new here, but there's a bad apple in the Akagi Family. Name's Gunma, and he's out of control.
I see ...


!!

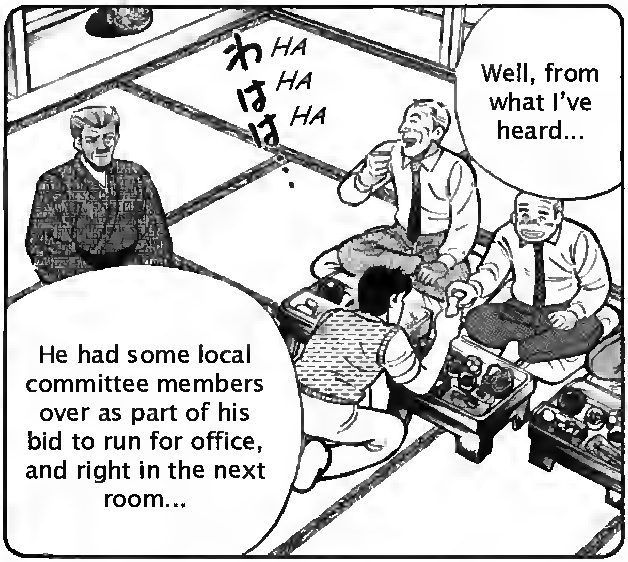
I didn't have any idea he was yer brother.
He's not.

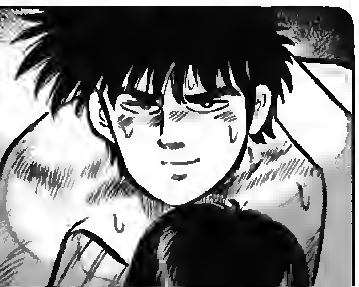
You have no relation to the Akagi Family now.
What are you doing here, Gunma?
You got fat dude
Well if it ain't Shoma.
Hold on, Yuma.
What?
Get in the car, Gunma!
Come on, Shoma. We haven't seen him in a long time.
How's Yuki?
By the way, Shoma...
...

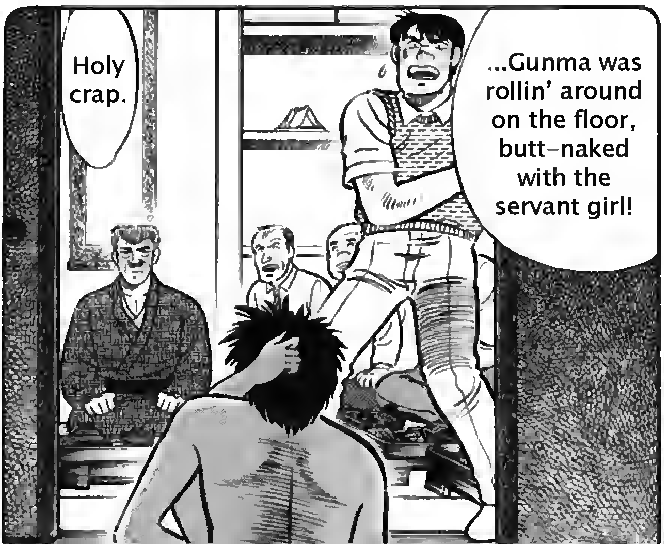

骨のある政治を
無所属
赤木総一郎
ちら…
GLANCE
SLAM
…
Guess I'll tag along for now.
Sorry for the trouble. Maybe this'll help.
And please keep quiet about this.
My lips are sealed.
BS
ブリヂストン
井上石油
Why would he piss on his daddy's poster?
ゴシゴシ
SCRUB
SCRUB
Mr. Akagi won't like this one bit, especially with the election so close.
Have a nice day!
ブーン
VRRRR


What the heck did he do?
And as revenge, he did something unbelievable in front of Mr. Akagi's important guests!
That rotten kid was so terrible, that Mr. Akagi had to disown him a year ago.
Well, just keep this between the two of us.
給油所

あ…あうん…
AH OOH
!?

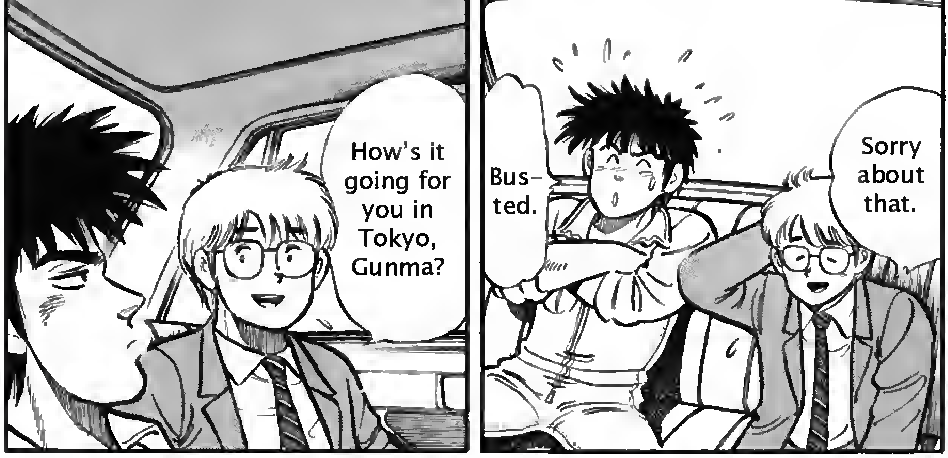

わはは…
HA HA HA
Well, from what I've heard...
He had some local committee members over as part of his bid to run for office, and right in the next room...

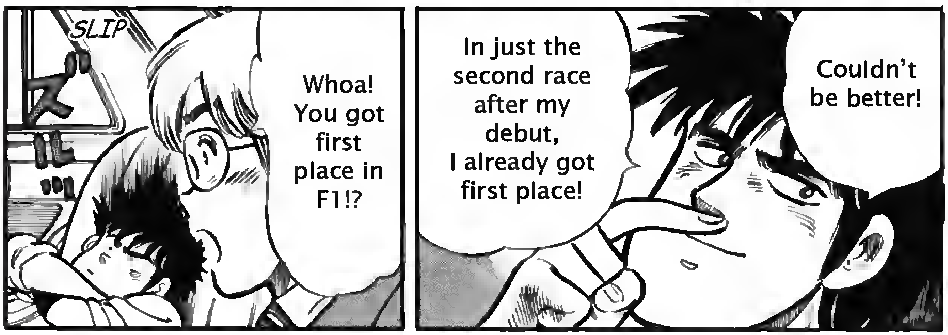


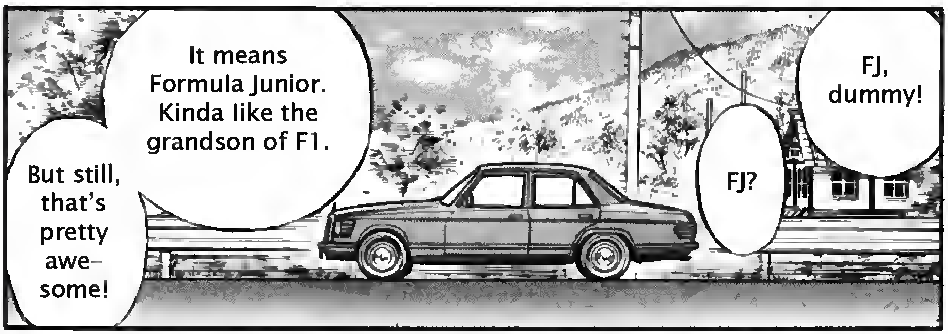

Holy crap.
...Gunma was rollin' around on the floor, butt-naked with the servant girl!

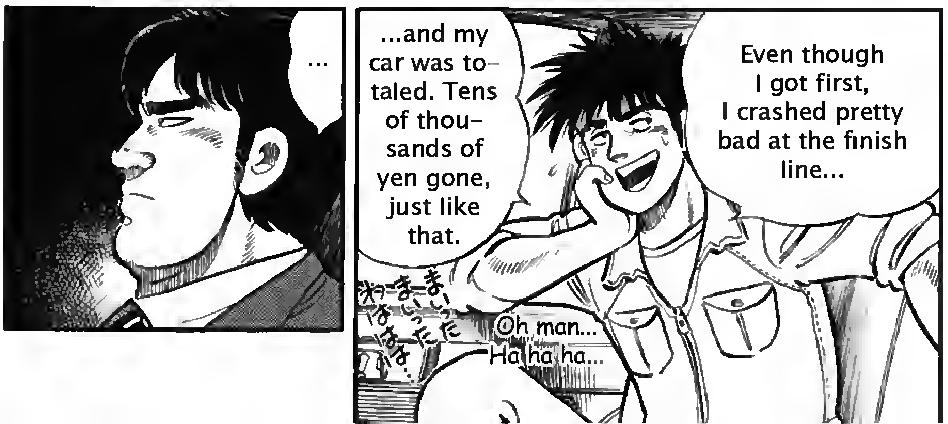
THUMP
VRRRR
HA HA HA
SCRUNCH
Gotcha, you little.!
URGH
SLAM
SQUEEEEZE
Dude, you got a phone in this car?
RRRR...
RRRR
Okay Gunma, you win!
Come on! I give up!
Huh? The presi-dent?
...
Gun-ma!
You've reached 911 emergency! Heh heh!

...
Yeah, it's me.
Cut that out! Give me that.
Whoa.
Isn't that cool? Shoma's virtually the head of Akagi Group operations now, and he's doing a great...
So yer a company president now? Pretty sweet, Shoma!
"Just" a presi-dent?
That's enough, Yuma. I'm just the president of one of Dad's small companies now, nothing more.
Dad's the official head, so stop spreading false information, Yuma.
Dad's still at the top, but he's been busy with the election and all, so I consult with various representatives in his place.


How's it going for you in Tokyo, Gunma?
Busted.
Sorry about that.


SLIP
Whoa! You got first place in F1!?
In just the second race after my debut, I already got first place!
Couldn't be better!

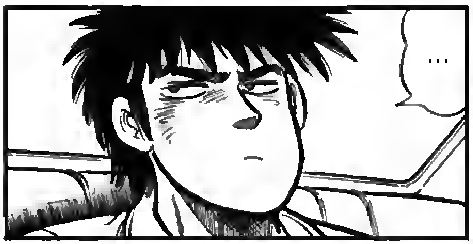

It means Formula Junior. Kinda like the grandson of F1.
But still, that's pretty awe-some!
FJ?
FJ, dummy!


...
...and my car was to-taled. Tens of thou-sands of yen gone, just like that.
Even though I got first, I crashed pretty bad at the finish line...
Oh man...
Ha ha ha...

You can't imagine.
...
Racing must get expensive.
...I've got the talent and the will, it's just...
Well... In my case...
We're back!
Mom and Dad are out on the campaign trail right now, so we can relax.
WOOSH
Stop!
Actually, Gunma gets out here.

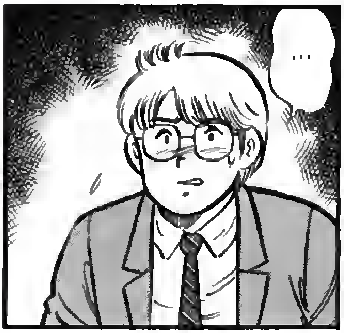
We'll go for a little stroll. You and I have a lot of catching up to do.
Get out!

Our father has disowned you, so you're not getting in the house.
Come on, Shoma!


...

I said go home!
But Shoma ...

What are you guys doing?
Okay. I wanted to talk anyway.
Get back to the house, Yuma!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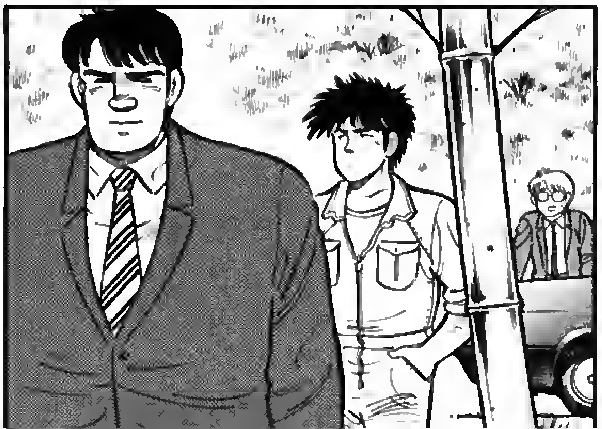


I've got a good guess why you came back.
FWAAH
FWOOH
You want money, don't you.
It's Yuki... I uh... just wanted to know if you're treatin' her right. I been thinkin' about her.
Wrong.
...
What I wanna know is if you gave her some kinda safety net.
I know that!
Since she helped you disgrace the Akagi Family, we couldn't have a woman like that under our employment.
We let her go a long time ago.
FWOOH

So I don't have to answer.
That's none of your business.
!
You made sure she could live comfortably on her own before you let her go, right?
She was workin' for the Akagi Family since she was just a girl, and her parents are dead.
Now it's my turn!
Hold on, Shoma. I ain't finished.
We're done with that topic.
You ain't treatin' her like dirt, are you?
Dude!
What are you doing?
And I never got the chance to let you know how that made us feel.
One year ago, you disgraced our family.
SLIP

You gotta be kidding me.
FWOOH
Come on! It'll be good exercise!
Just a little boxing! I trained a lot while I was overseas.
WHOOSH
I'm dead seri-ous.
Let me show you how I felt on that night, one year ago.
FWOOH
My injuries still ain't healed up from the accident.
Whoa! Knock it off!
FWOOSH
Cut it out, man!
Dude!
FWOOH
Let it soak in well!
Shoma!

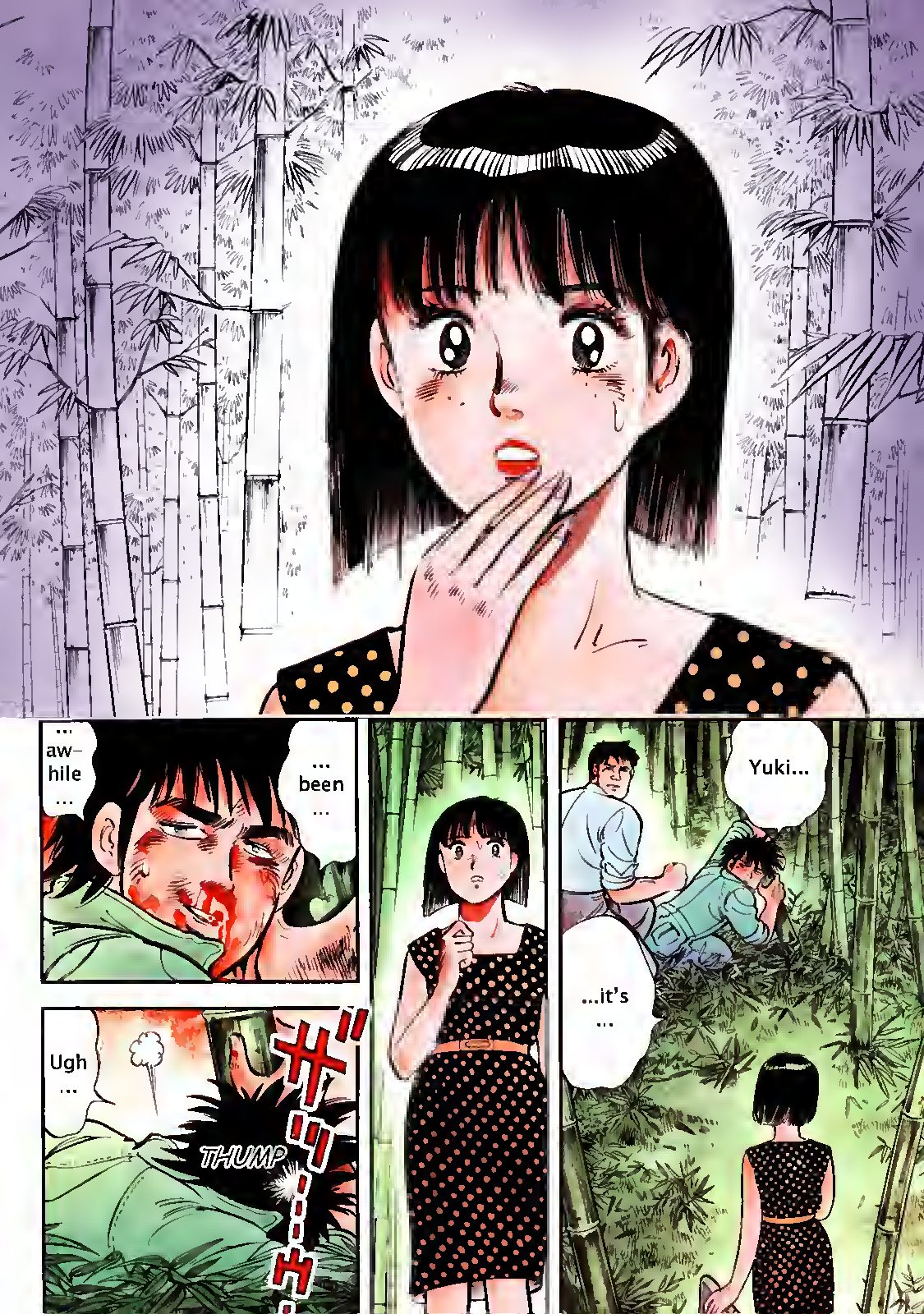
CRACK
ビキッ
SOCK

S...
SHWOOOH
SOOOM
BAM
...Stop, Shoma ...
Ugh ...
SLIP
And I'm not done yet! The pain you inflicted on me was much worse!
You feel that pain? Huh!?
BIFF
SLAM
CRACK
Gunma!

!
!
Yuki
...

F

Vol.4

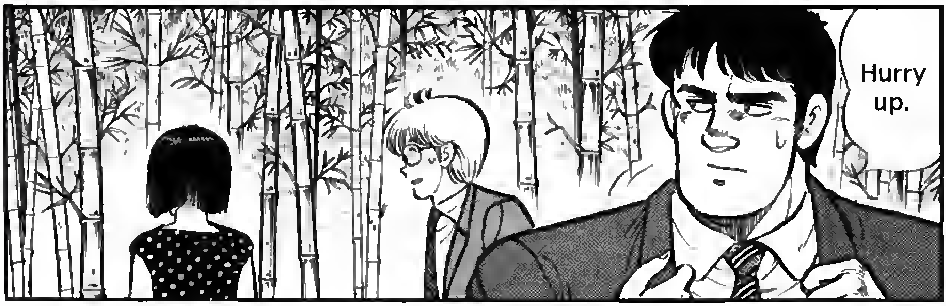

...
aw-
hile
...
...
been
...
Ugh
...
THUMP
Yuki...
...it's
...

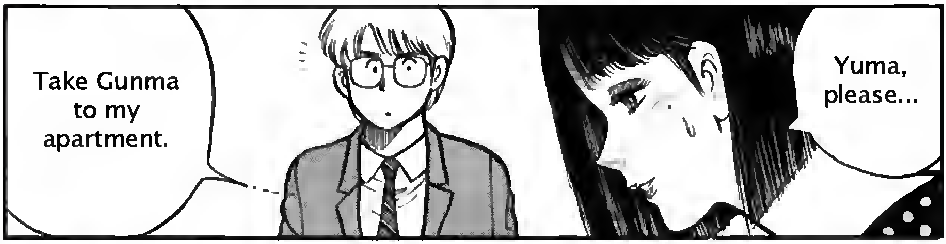
# Chapter 9: Together Again

I told you not to show your face in these parts.
What are you doing here?
Gunma ...
What did you do to Gunma!?
Yuma called you, didn't he? That stupid kid...

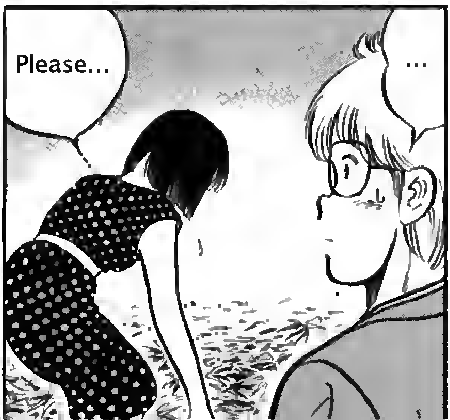
Eheh ...
Gasa
POP
Get out here!
Yuma!
...
And when he comes to, tell him he's never getting into the Akagi house.
Get the chauffeur and have him take Gunma to the station!
Get over here, Yuki!

I'm just...
...getting my bag.
Why you...!
Let go!


Hurry up.


Take Gunma to my apartment.
Yuma, please...

Yuki!

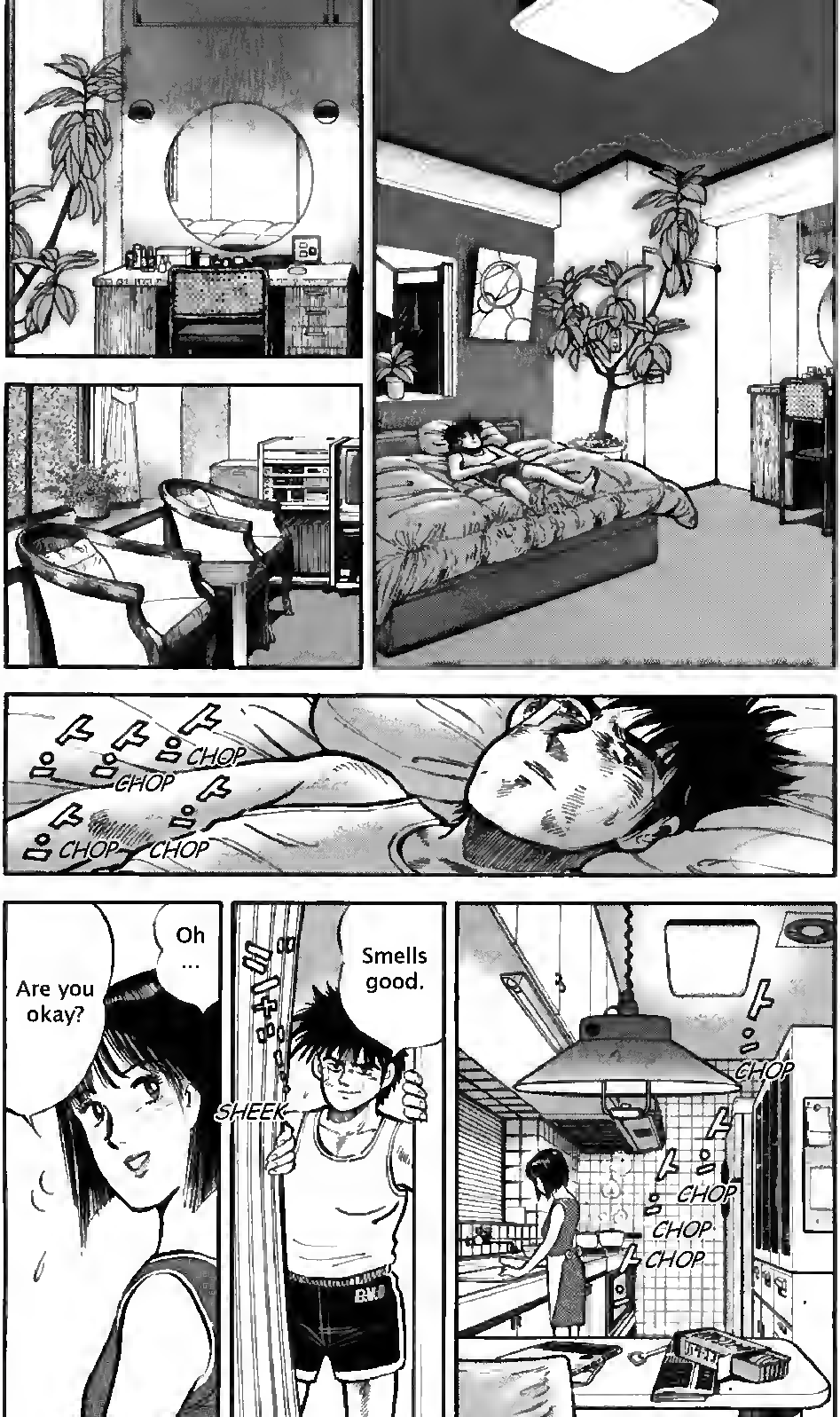

Please...
...

FWOOH

GSSHHH

It's ter-
rible.

I can't believe Shoma would do that.
We haven't seen you in a long time, and why did he have to hit you?

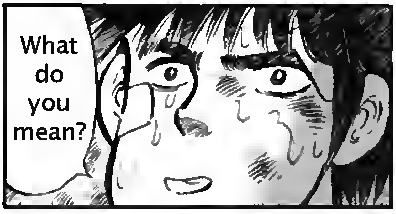

CHOP
CHOP
CHOP
CHOP
Are you okay?
Oh ...
SHEEK
Smells good.
CHOP
CHOP
CHOP
CHOP

Oww-w...
But this is good! Munch Munch
Ugh, the inside of my mouth is cut up.
Keep it cold, and take it easy.
You know what?
...
HA HA HA
What a relief!
Looks like yer pretty well off here.
I don't even wanna go back to Tokyo now.
HMM
This is a pretty high-class apartment, a lot different than my place.
Yeah!
How about a bath, Gunma?
Fwooh!
CHEW CHEW

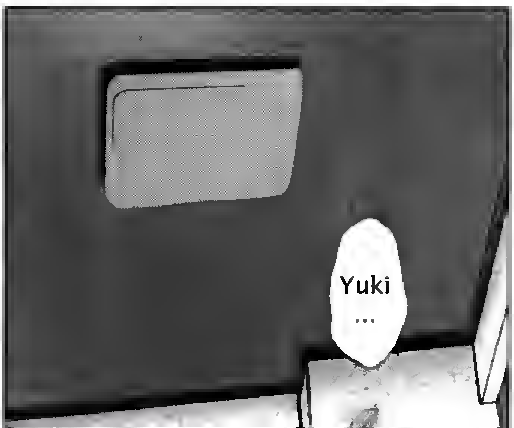
Get in with me, Yuki!
I'll put your clothes here.
カチャ…
KUCHAK
ぷふぁ
SPLOOSH
A year has passed and all, so I wouldn't be surprised if you got a boyfriend or two by now!
I mean, if you don't want to, that's fine.
SPLISHHH
And maybe we can... you know... like old times!
Don't be mean.
What are you doin' for work anyway?
SPLASH
Must be a good job to afford a place like this.
SHEEK

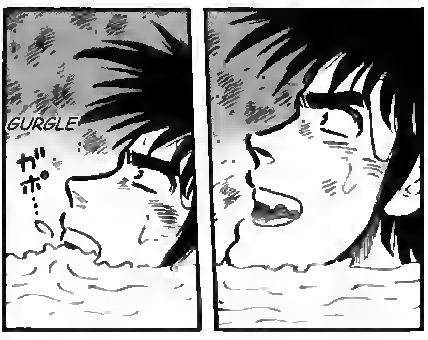
...you have to say those mean things.
And you still...
You know what's going on.
GSSHHH

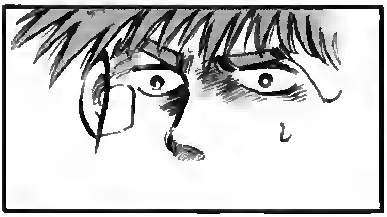
I just wanna forget right now.
Never mind.

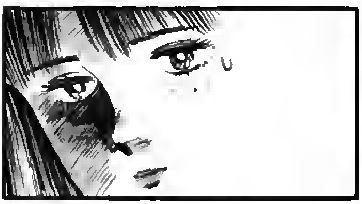

What do you mean?

Let's do it, Gunma.
Forget every-thing, and go back to how I used to be.

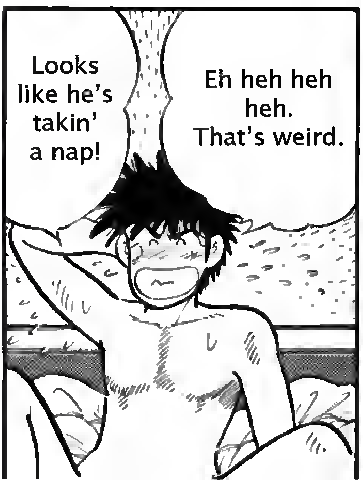

Yuki ...


GURGLE
ガボ…





Yuki
...


Looks like he's takin' a nap!
Eh heh heh heh. That's weird.

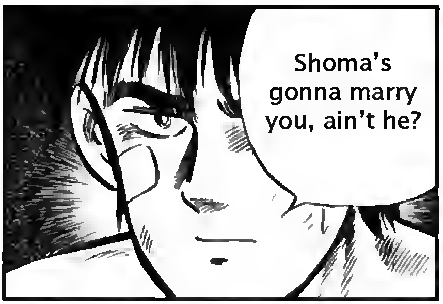
Stupid thing!
SMACK
A little.
You smoke now?
...
...and you never used to be so aggressive.
You've changed a lot.
Wearin' makeup now...
Plus you said I know what's going on.
...what was that all about?
...when you said I'm mean...
By the way...

カ!!
ば!!
WOOSH
It's that I'm...
... Shoma's mistress!
I thought Shoma or Yuma must've told you.
So you didn't know.
I'm four months pregnant.
...still inside me.
And I've got a child...
I was going to ask for a leave.
But then, Shoma bought me this apartment.
As soon as you left, I couldn't stay in that house either.

FWOOH
He said he'd treat me well.
And that I'd be well off for the rest of my life.
So that's why...
Uh-huh.
I never thought much of Shoma.
No! Please no...!
Shoma! Please stop!
To tell you the truth, I despise him.
You know?
But I thought it would be a good way to make him pay for what he did.
No...
Nooo...

Come with me, Yuki.
We can both go.
No. I don't want to get in your way, Gunma.
And besides, I...

...I don't deserve your love anymore.

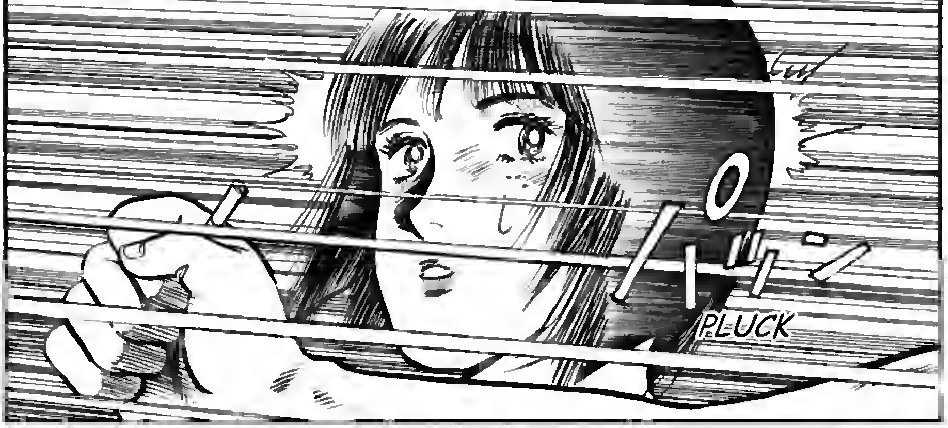

Shoma's gonna marry you, ain't he?

You gonna keep the baby?
Of course!
THSS

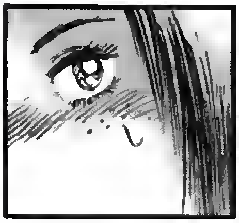
PLOP

No, that's the last thing on his mind.
He really hates it when I go to that house.

...and I'll live quietly with my child.
He'll just take care of me for the rest of my life...
SHIK
I'd be selfish to expect such a thing.
Ha ha ha. I don't need to get married anyway.
You guys are crazy...
...
Gunma ...
I won't let this happen to you.
!
I won't let you live the same life as my momma!
Yuki!

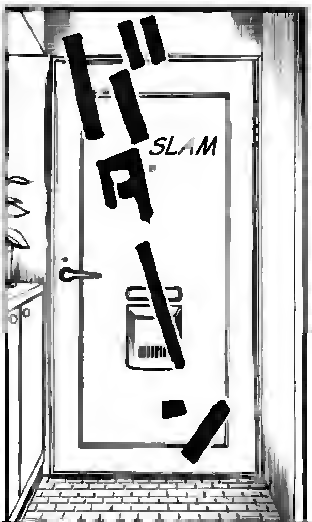

PLUCK

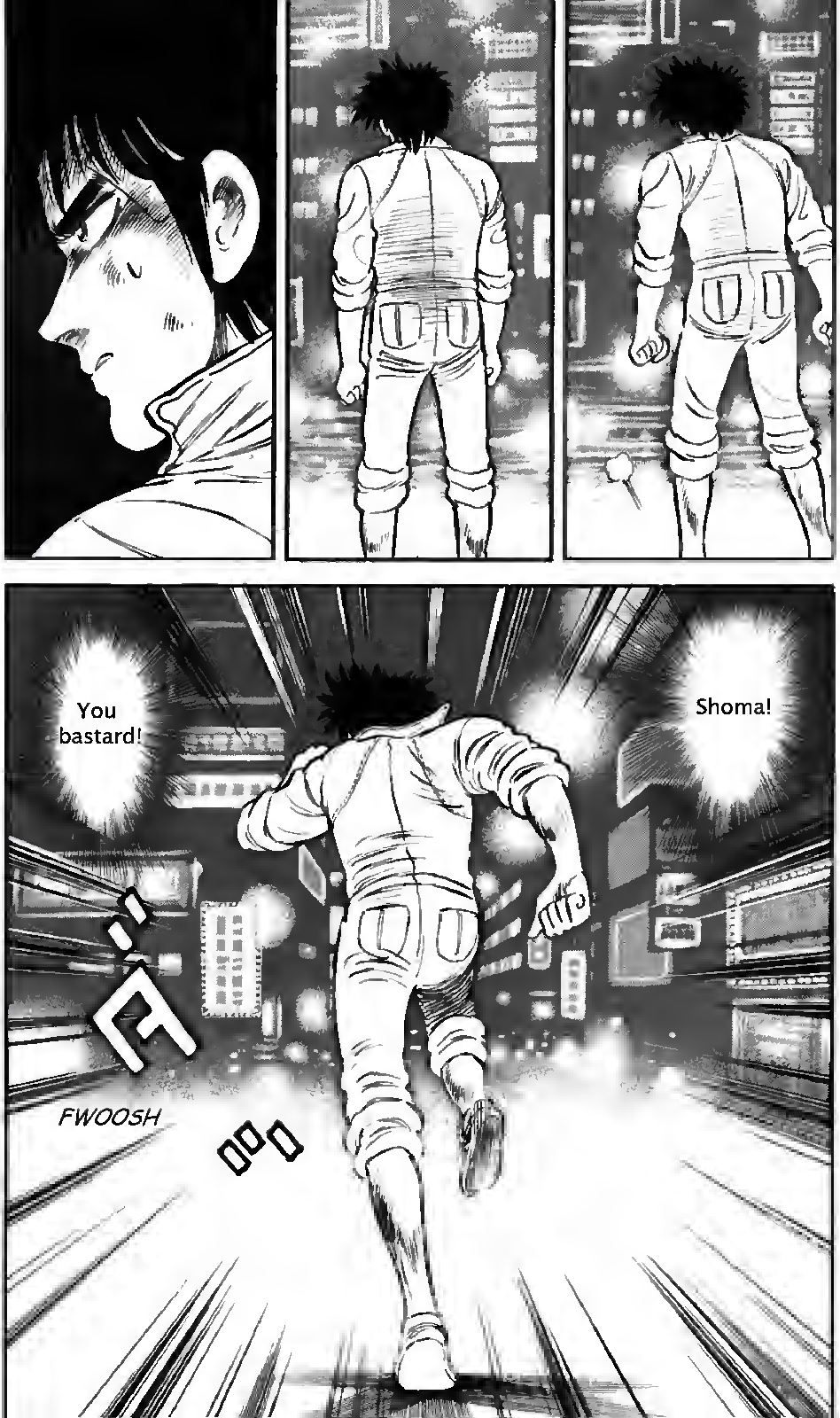
Everybody knows pregnant women shouldn't smoke!
Stop puffin' on these damn things!



SQUISH

...

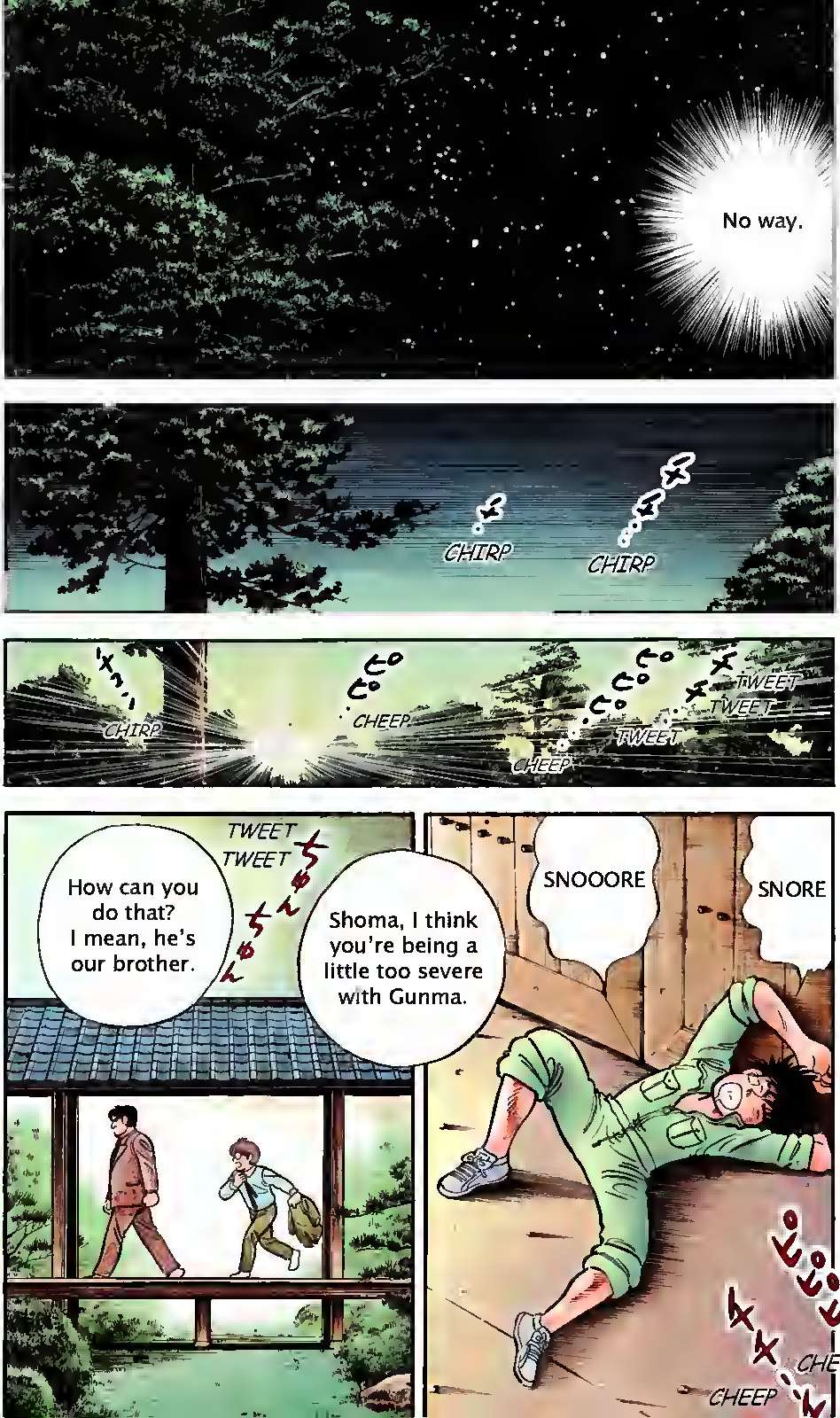

SLAM


You bastard!
Shoma!
FWOOSH

# Chapter 10: Momma's Keepsake

Ain't you comin' out!?
You filthy coward...!
Get out here you slimeball!
Shomaaaa!
Shoma!

ガコ
THUNK
And the intercom's turned off.
This house is so damn big.
He probably can't even hear me.
HUSHHH
I'll wait it out right here.
Hell, it's almost morning.
ドサ。
THUMP
...
Yuki ...
I won't let you live the same life my momma did.
No matter what it takes...
...I gotta talk to Shoma about this!


No way.
CHIRP
CHIRP
CHIRP
CHEEP
CHEEP
TWEET
TWEET
TWEET
TWEET
TWEET
How can you do that? I mean, he's our brother.
Shoma, I think you're being a little too severe with Gunma.
SNOOORE
SNORE
CHEEP
CHEEP

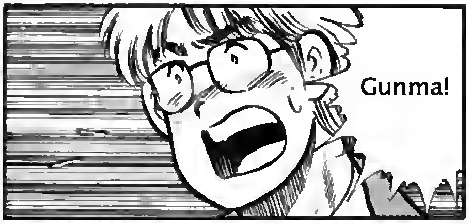
Well ...
I mean...
Dad got some other chick pregnant with him. He's not like us.
Besides, we kicked him out a year ago for disgracing us. Why are you so keen on defending him?
!?
Master Shoma!
You took him to the station last night like I asked, right?
He's causing our family a great deal of trouble by loitering around here.
...
YAWN
ACHOO
ボリボリ...
SCRATCH SCRATCH
...

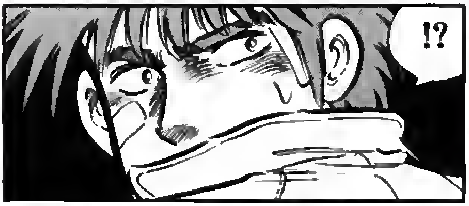
I been waitin' out here all night.
Now I think I'm catchin' a cold.
Shoma, have the others leave.
I wanna talk to you in private.
...
You are so pitiful.
I knew you came here for money.
Take this back to Tokyo with you.
And never show your face around here again!
FLOP

I'm a busy man. Get in the car, Yuma!
Just get your sorry ass out of this village!
Fine, do what you want with it.
KACHINK
I already told you... I never said a thing about money
Pick it up!
You want money, right?
But Shoma ...
About Yuki.
It's about her.
Tell me yer gonna marry Yuki!
Shoma!
She's carrying your baby!
...
!

This ain't got nothin' to do with money!
But now you're trying to blackmail me for money, with a groundless rumor.
I'm surprised. By coming back for money, I thought you had a simplistic sort of innocence.
Gunma ...
You wanna... continue where we left off yesterday?
BAM
GRIN
Urrgh ...
Bring it on!
KRRR

Urrgh ...
You're gonna marry Yuki, right?
Answer me, Shoma.
...
KRR
Answer me!
Master Akagi...


Gunma!


!?

Oh no.
Answer me!

Dad ...!
WHACK

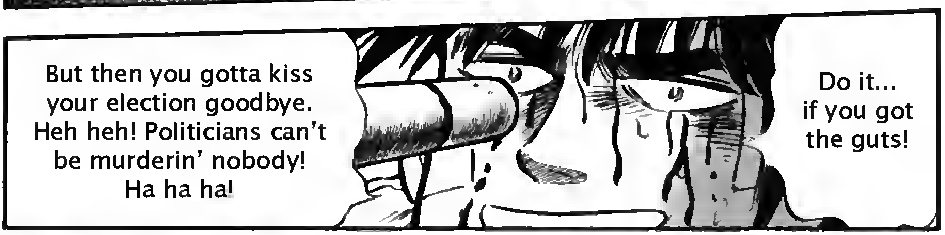
CRACK

BUMP
Stay back!
S... Stop it...
ガキッ
SPRAK
...
THUNK
ドカ
SMACK
スガ
BIFF
SPOK
HYAH!

FWOOP
Do you think I'd allow this nonsense?
What's this about?
What on earth for?
No no no—
Stop it... This is between me and Shoma.
Get out of my sight! You're not wanted here!
Yes, Father.
Shoma!
If you expect to take charge, you can't let trash like this push you around! Get going!

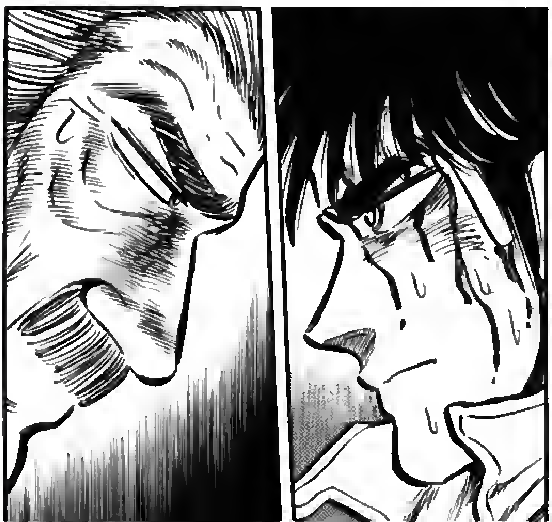
Don't move!
SPOK
Hold on, Shoma! I ain't through with you!
If you want to live, I suggest you don't move.
I can drive this stick right into your skull.
I dare you, old man!
...
Killin' somebody during an election?
Heh... Listen to you.
...
Dad...
Master Akagi once used that stick to kill a wild boar, in a single blow.
Master Gunma, I implore you to apologize.
What's the matter? Go on, kill me... Heh...

FWOOH
Maybe I will.


But then you gotta kiss your election goodbye. Heh heh! Politicians can't be murderin' nobody! Ha ha ha!
Do it... if you got the guts!

It's completely consistent with my ideals!

...



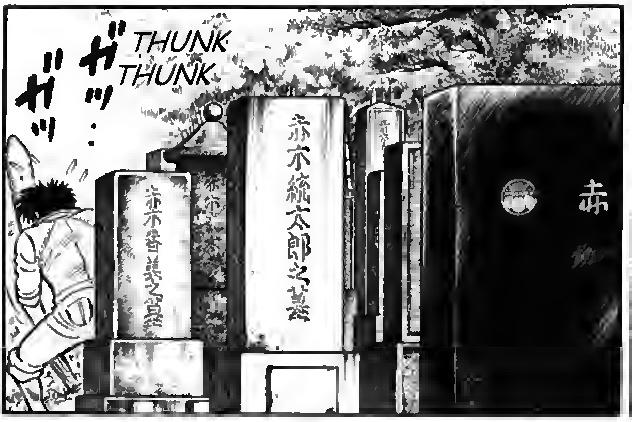
I'm running for the people, for this country.
And by killing you, right here and now, I'd be doing our country a favor!

You're still a crazy old man.
Heh heh heh heh.
What ever...
SPOOT
I don't care what you do!
...

In the end, a strong will determines who's the better person. Ha ha ha.
Remember this, Shoma.
Heh heh heh... Look at him run with his tail between his legs.
HA HA HA
SHAKE SHAKE
SHAKE
!
SWIF SWIF
!
PEH

Yuki ...
I've decided to quit smoking.
I...
What?
Come with me to Tokyo!

赤木家之墓
Here Lies the Akagi Family

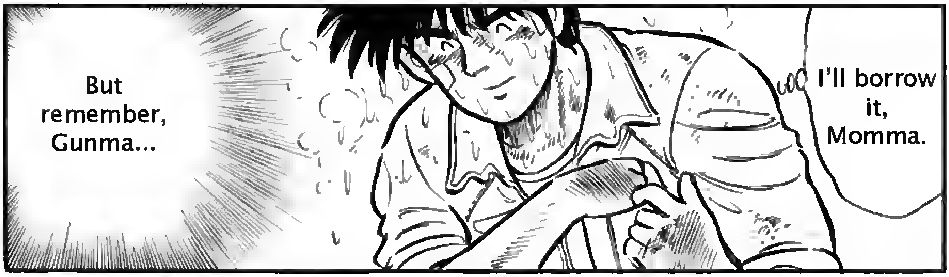

THUNK
THUNK
赤

Gunma
...
THUNK
THUNK

It's the only thing I ever asked your daddy to buy for me.
If something ever happens to me, I want you to have this, my son.

Momma...

If you're ever hurting for money, take it and sell it.
This is a very valuable piece.


But remember, Gunma...
I'll borrow it, Momma.

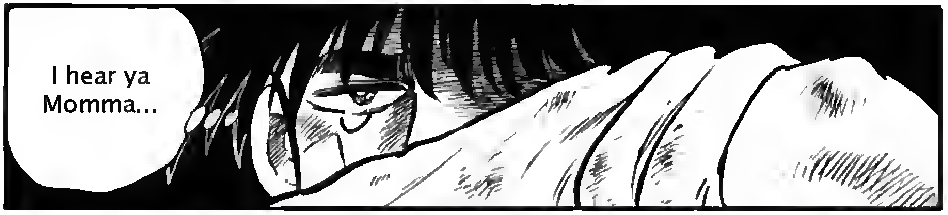
See how worried I am about you, son?
Knowing you, you'd probably... Oh...
Phew... It's hot.
...I'm very worried about you...
Don't use this money to play around with women, no matter how hard times may be! And no alcohol, cycle racing, horse racing, pachinko, or mahjong either!

Listen to me, Gunma.

Only use it when you need a boost in life. A boost to success.

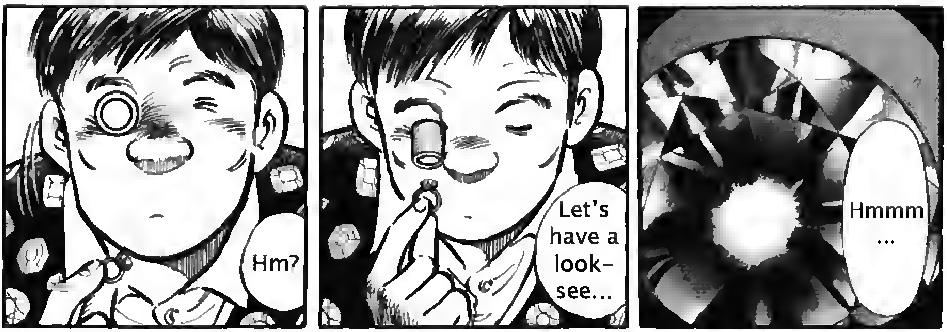
You got it? Stop grinning and promise your Momma!

If the time comes, and you need it for survival...



# Chapter 11: The Unexpected Gift

Hmm.
宝石 貴金属
クマダ商会
KUMADA TRADING We Buy Precious Metals and Fine Jewelry at High Prices
パーパー
HONK HONK

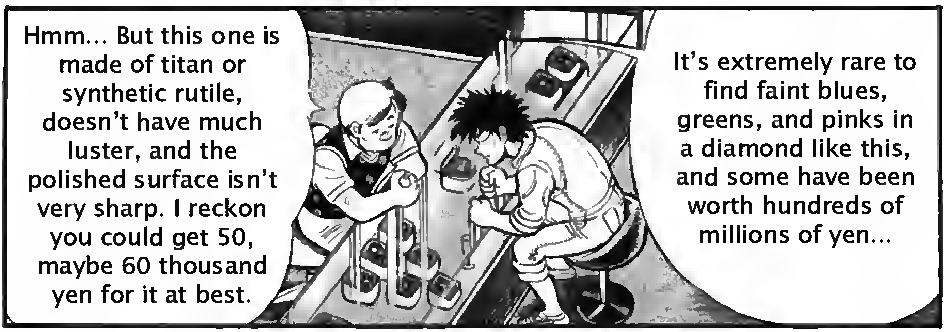

Hm?
Let's have a look-see...
Hmmm ...

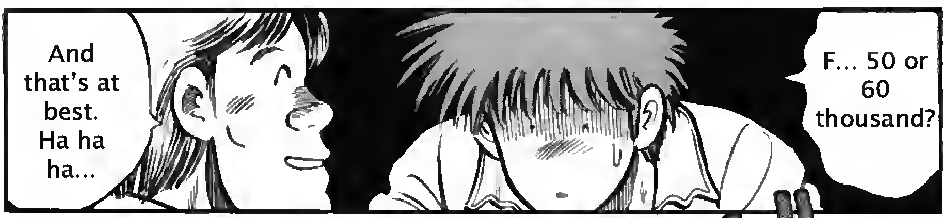
Whoaaa!

BWERM

Phew.
You scared me half to
What do you think, pops? 5 million? 10 million yen?

A fake!?
...but this here is a fake.
I'm sorry ...


Hmm... But this one is made of titan or synthetic rutile, doesn't have much luster, and the polished surface isn't very sharp. I reckon you could get 50, maybe 60 thousand yen for it at best.
It's extremely rare to find faint blues, greens, and pinks in a diamond like this, and some have been worth hundreds of millions of yen...


And that's at best. Ha ha ha...
F... 50 or 60 thousand?

A fake!?
...
What are you doing!?
You stupid...!
URRGH

And it's a fake?
It's the only thing I ever asked your daddy to buy for me.
Please! Just calm down!
You absolutely...
...sure about that?
How about this?
I'll take it off your hands for 70 thousand. Would that make you happy?
I see.
Of course I am, probably.
Come on, you came all this way. 70 thousand is a darn good deal.
I said never mind!
Never mind.

...
GRIP
Damn. If that's the case...
...
Maybe my magnifier is clouded.
!?
...I ain't sellin' this, even for 10 billion yen!
!
Oh no, really?
There's no way a country boy like that could get his hands on a fancy colored diamond, worth over 100 million yen.
Unless he stole it.
Could-n't be. Just could-n't.

...
Who knows.
What are you gonna do?
I mean, what kinda jerk does that? Tsh...
HEH HEH HEH
YAK YAK
About that...
You all packed and ready to go?
Anyway, are you going in that outfit?
!
I can't go with you to Tokyo.
...I thought it over, and...
!
...you found another woman.
I just have a feeling...
Why not?

Move yer ass woman!
Yuki ...
Where the hell's my beer!?
Women's intuition, I guess.
I oughta slap you silly!
I'm not blaming you or anything.
POUND
Shut the hell up you jerks!
You got a nice caboose, honey!
But I know these things can happen.
Please stop!
HEH
HEH
HEH
HEH
Huh?
But won't you be...
Yuki...

I won't live like your momma did!
I promise ...
Don't worry, I'll be fine.
Lem me in on it!
I wanna hear too.
HEH HEH HEH
HEH HEH
Did she dump you, junior?
Ooh. Sounds like a serious conversation.
HAHH
HA HA HA HA
You need a nice car for that nowa-days!
Nice try, junior! She ain't gonna give up no tail for a cheapo ring like this.
Hey! Look at this ugly thing!
It's a diamond ring!

HEE HEE
HEH HEH HEH
CRUNCH
Step, step, step.
Get yer sweaty foot off my ring.
Hmm!?
You better back off.
CRA'ASHHH
BACK OFF!

STUMP
Please, sir!
Ahhh!
... young buck!
...
You got fire in your blood...
And so do I!
BSHAAAK
Gunma!
CRUNK

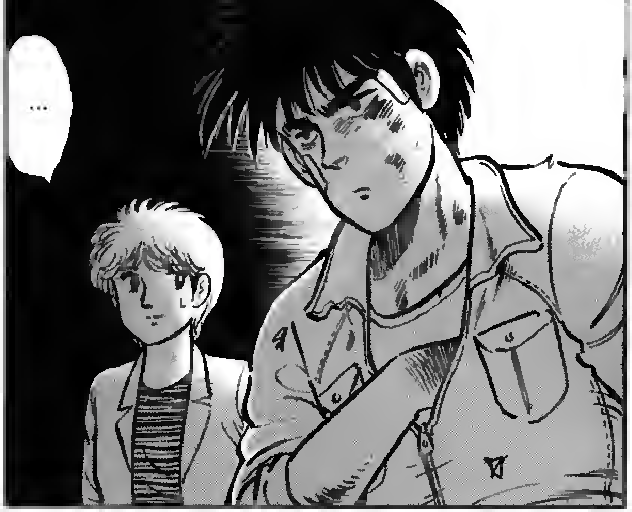
WOBBLE
You little punk!
What's going on?
Move aside!
BONK
It's the only thing I...
SMACK
Whoa!
This is a very valuable piece.
...ever asked your daddy to buy for me.
You bas-tard!
THUMP
Gunma!

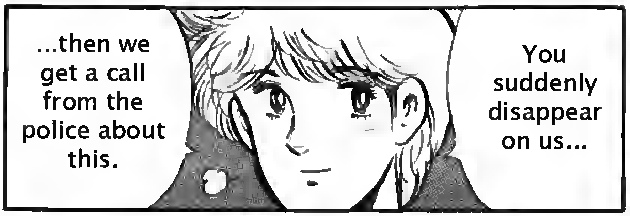
...sell this...
PEP!
THUNK
If something ever happens to me...
Huff...
Huff...
Huff...
Huff...
It's Momma's one and only keepsake.
RIIIIP
RIIIIP
...
One and only...

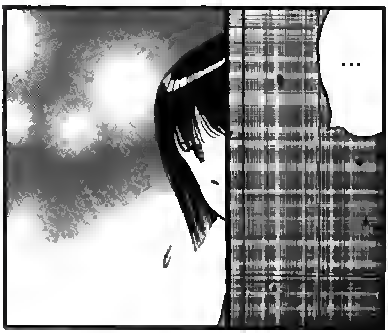
BSHAAAAW
HYAAAAAH!
It's the police!
WOO
WOO
WOO

My people have been nagging me to quit since the accident.
But I'm just not cut out for circuit racing.
It's a dis-appoint-ment.
I figure it would be a waste just to scrap it.
The suspension's damaged a little, but otherwise pretty solid.
POKE
POKE
And if I really have to, I think Sir Gunma would be a good owner.
Telling me to get rid of that race car.
HA HA HA
There's no need for that. I have a great deal of respect for Sir Gunma!
I think we need to pay you some-thing.
Yes! He's been wanting to race so badly, but he doesn't have a car.
カ…HA
カ…HA
カ…HA
Did they mummify you?
Thank you!
Kishida, right? You don't know how happy Gunma will be to hear this.
And that's a helluva bandage there.
じーん∞
SWELL

Tele-
phone.
RINNNG
He's been gone for three days. Said he went out to find some money.
Where is he anyway?
RING RING
Taka-
saki
Police!?
Hm?
Hello?
Does this hurt?
HA HA HA
POKE
POKE
Lemme see that
HEH HEH
...
Gunma was brawling with thugs in front of Takasaki Station!?
What!?


...


...then we get a call from the police about this.
You suddenly disappear on us...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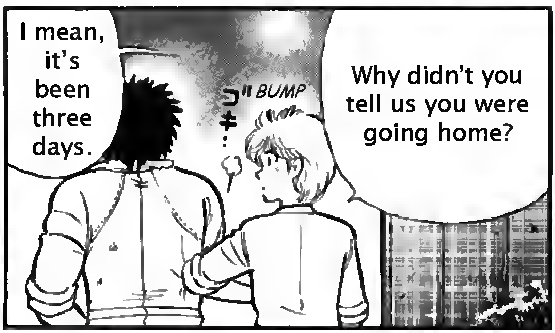
I mean, it's been three days.
BUMP
Why didn't you tell us you were going home?

...I assume you didn't get that money you wanted.
I don't know what hap-pened, but if you were fighting with thugs...

I promise I won't live like your momma did!
...
Hey, cheer up, okay? This isn't like you!
I've got some great news!
You remember Kishida, that little guy who started racing to research something?
He said he wants you to use his race car!
!
If we're quick we can squeeze you into the next race. What do you say?

"F" Volume 4 THE END

F VOL.4

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